

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

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NATIONAL MONEY MATTERS.

We have remarked before on the determined tendency of the public just now to fix all their attention on matters of finance. The lavishness of the war days has been succeeded by a natural and desirable re-action. Politics proper are at a discount, and the world is only in earnest about income-tax, tea and sugar duties, and navy and army estimates. Let us see, then, how we all stand in point of national receipts and expenditure; let us, in fact (to use a homely phrase), turn our eyes to the national pot. We shall use the figures when needful—the results of figures, when we can make these intelligible, without the details.

Well, then, the country is prosperous from the point of view of the economists; that is to say, its exports increase, and its trade recovers rapidly from the war. The country grows richer,—though, whether happier or better as regards the whole sum of human life in it, is another matter. "Our exports," says the Chancellor of the Exchequer, "have doubled in value since 1849;" and "we commence this period of peace with exports three times greater than they were in 1816," observes the same authority. From this point of view the new peace era commences well. The war has not left behind it a debt in any proportion to the old debts of former wars; we having met the expenditure (as our larger means demanded of us) more promptly than our predecessors. That expenditure—the whole cost of the check given to Russia, whether that check be great or little—is calculated, in the lump, at over seventy-six millions of money. It is tempting to speculate on what *might* have been done with that sum. But a nation that will not fight has no security for its long enjoying anything. Besides, though the money has been spent, it has fed thousands of our countrymen in scores of departments of life; and even, from that point of view, is not to be considered wasted, as your very peaceable people would tell you. Last year has been an expensive one, by way of concluding the war—with its Sardinian loan, its transport of troops, and so forth; but then there is *matériel* to show for part of the money spent: we wish we

could be sure it was being wisely hived for possible contingencies. The danger of all accumulation of stores is, that much is apt to be wasted and neglected.

The war expenditure being over, it next becomes interesting to know on what kind of scale our expenses are to be in future years. And here we are met by a plain fact—viz., that our expenditure is gradually becoming larger, and seems likely to be permanently larger. The seventeen millions reduction in army and navy estimates only means that we are not at war with a great Power. The vital point is, that our peace estimates are becoming habitually larger for the services. Thus, we shall have to spend on them next year five millions odd more than we did in 1830, six millions odd more than in 1833, and so on, in regular progression. Now, this increased rate cannot be explained by saying that it only keeps pace with the general progress of the country. It increases in a larger proportion than the general willingness to pay taxes. The various changes of the age, however, necessarily cause part of it. In the navy, for example, in which we find an increase of £1,380,000 over 1852, steam and big ships, and the change in the government of the Coast Guard, seem to be becoming a permanent and standing source of higher expense. It is obvious, that, if this be so, the taxation of the country must be duly calculated to meet it; and though people are willing enough to pay for a profession which is essential to the country's safety, and invaluable to its renown, it is well known that we have to pay enormously for mere Admiralty blundering and jobbery. Two of the greatest seamen of the age—Dundonald and Napier—men who have had bullets and blockheads to meet all over the world, in one kind of strife or another—have had much of their time to spend merely in exposing abuses. If we felt any security that administration improved as expense increased, the latter phenomenon would be more tolerable. The civil service, again, is increasing in expensiveness; and the cost of collecting the revenue to meet all these charges is itself something awful—£4,215,000. The Chancellor of the Exchequer meanwhile is obliged to turn a deaf ear, however politely, to

all kinds of schemes—and schemes essential to the comfort of the mass of the people—for public parks, museums, and such like. He is only too lucky if he can raise his money without exciting public discontent; and we have seen, during the last few months, how much discontent has been provoked by one tax alone.

The income-tax, it is plain, is likely to become a permanent one, though shorn of its war proportions; yet, at the best of times, it is a war tax, reduced or not reduced. In the old war it inflicted terrible misery, and its abolition excited something like a general jubilee. There is a fascination to Chancellors of the Exchequer in its vigorous simplicity and straightforward grasp. Nor do we object to it that it is "direct," but that, being direct, it is not fair. The direct mode of levying taxes is the easiest, and so the cheapest; but, then, the moral as well as the financial interests of the community ought to be considered. We are to be freed from the extra part, so much discussed, of this impost, but the old sevenpence in the pound, laid on by Peel in 1842 for three years, and renewed in '45 and '48, is to be paid for the next three years, and may probably be "renewed" then.

With the famous "war ninepence" our reliefs appear to end. Sir Cornwall Lewis is quite opposed to any general change in the system of taxation. Tea and sugar are not to be allowed to enjoy the relief once intended for them to the extent once hoped. The great mass of the poor, then, gain nothing by this Budget, except indirectly through the relief of those just above them in the matter of income-tax. And here is the great fact which meets one every day, and which spoils the pride one would take otherwise in the growing wealth of the kingdom. Your vast poor population gains so little! We are "progressing," says a Chancellor of the Exchequer. So far, so good. But the labourer is still at his ten shillings a week, and rich as you are, it seems you cannot afford to cheapen his tea; and the operative will be striking next autumn, and you cannot afford to educate or amuse him. If your revenue is greater, why, so are your expenses; and though steam has revolutionised war, it has made war far more costly. Reflections like these (the worst illustrations



THE FAIR RECKONER.—(FROM A PICTURE BY LOUIS HAGER.)

of which are still to come) ought to moderate the vulgar boasting of our own merits which so much distinguishes the time, and the popularity of which helps bunglers, by making the people fancy that so highly progressive an age as theirs cannot possibly have bunglers in its posts of honour!

A decent reduction in the income-tax, and a very trifling one in the tea and sugar duties, make up the whole amount of Government concession. Nothing is to be taken off paper, or wine, or spirits. With regard to the first of these, the abolition of the tax would cheapen periodicals, and so aid education. Touching the second, we feel no great regret, not being satisfied with Mr. Oliveira's assurances that the loss of revenue would right itself. It is true that cheaper wine would be a great boon to poor gentlemen and their families; but most wine merchants have observed that the wide British public, as a general rule, do not care much for the light wines of the South. They want something stronger; they have a deeply-rooted love of beer, and the frequent use of spirits has spoiled the populace for the enjoyment of the juice of the vine. To reduce the spirit duty, and cheapen spirits, would be assuredly mischievous; but still, a high duty is drawn from the same class that would drink more if the duty were lessened; and it is an unsatisfactory reflection, that it probably does its own kind of mischief, by drawing more heavily than a smaller duty on the money which ought to be spent in a wiser way. The fact is, that drunkenness is the product of the ignorance, poverty, obscurity, and animalism of the working poor, and is too deep to be reached by such expedients as we have yet seen brought to bear on its ex irigation.

Altogether, the Budget indicates a condition of things under which Government is a very costly business; and we are bound to say, that we see no prospect of this costliness abating. The reduction of the income-tax to its old standard will somewhat relieve the poorer classes, but will, of course, benefit a larger number not wanting relief so much. On the other hand—no doubt as a set-off to this—the resolution of the Government not to spare sugar and tea, will tell heavily on those who need relief most. The Budget is not being received by the country so cheerfully as it promised at first; but the time of our going to press does not enable us to criticise (at present) the formal parliamentary discussion of it.

A PLEA FOR THE OLD TIMES.

SUGGESTED BY A PICTURE BY LOUIS HAGHE.

(See preceding Page.)

WE are growing too proud of our age and its wonders,
Our telegraphs, presses, and calico prints—
Conceit is the very foundation of blunders:
The time stands in need of some chastening hints.
We fancy our thoughts than our fathers' profounder,
Because we can send them by lightning through air—
Believe that the hearts in our bosoms are sounder,
Because we wear shirts at five shillings a pair.

But take an old picture, or read an old poem—
Here's one of the former: you'll say, that's a bull,
As the artist who drew it, (I really don't know him,
And therefore can laud him) of years hardly full,
Still lives, and still works; yet the picture's an old one—
From my point of view—for it breathes of a time
When heroes and martyrs, crowns richer than gold won;
When Hampden was glorious, and Milton sublime.

Just look at the group—(what tradition it's built on,
Or story, I know not, nor very much care)—
A youth (by the way, not unlike the said Milton,
Perhaps, John himself) of poetical air,
A swash buckler warrior tobacco inhaling,
A background of toppers in liquor and talk,
A Hebe at top of the cellar-stair railing,
Inscribing a score on her day-book with chalk!

That poet, no doubt, wrote on very bad paper—
His work with vile spelling and grammar was rife;
Rough printed by hand, not by magic and vapour,
And bought for five pounds, though the toil of a life.
'Twas bound in coarse leather, with no illustrations—
But still 'twas the fruit of a heart and a brain;
Not written, to order, to sell at the stations,
For boys and old women to read in the train.

The soldier was coarse, ill-condition'd, unletter'd;
His weapons were clumsy, his science but small,
I doubt in his calling if he had been better'd
By Lancaster cannon or conical ball;
His meat was not press'd or preserved in tin cases,
But still he could get it; though slender his cares
What the cause he defends, he would spit in their faces
Who hinted desertion on "private affairs."

The toppers drink ale from horn measures or pewter,
Or sack, that perchance is not guiltless of lime;
What then? They are free from deceptions astuter,
The strychnine and quassia of civilised time.
They sit in rude chairs, in a rough room are quarter'd,
Without any fittings of rosewood or glass;
No matter! the drink is not poison'd or water'd,
To pay for rare engines through which it must pass.

The girl cannot write—what a fearful admission!
No doubt, never heard that the world is a globe;
In dancing knows scarcely a single position,
Can barely make pudding, or stitch a coarse robe:
Can neither work slippers nor paint upon satin—
Of crochet or Berlin knows none of the charms;
But I wish half the girls who teach music and Latin
Could show such bright faces, or jolly round arms.

They had not our gas-lights, with wonderful burners
(Then, time was less precious—folks slept in the night),
They had not our schools for the hungry learners,
They had not our knowledge of wrong and of right
They had not our critics—we have not their poets,
Their martyrs, their heroes, their captains, and kings;
They had not our cliques of slaves, cynics, and low wits,
To sneer and pooh-pooh the amendment of things.

Yes, men were then better, and stronger, and greater—
A man was a man, and a spade was a spade;
They branded the rogue, and beheaded the traitor,
Whatever his family, calling, or grade.
Oh, could we but some of their greatness inherit,
With light on our pathways and books on our shelves,
What might we not do! if we could, in their spirit,
Think more of our duties and less of ourselves!

B.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE Emperor's speech on opening the Assembly engrosses all attention in Paris. The speech will be found reported at length in another column. Count de Morny's mission to St. Petersburg is prolonged; the functions of President of the Legislative Corps will therefore be performed during the session by M. Schneider, the Vice-President.

Marshal Randon, Governor-General of Algeria, has arrived in Paris, in order to concert with the Emperor relative to the expedition against the Kabyles, which is to be undertaken, though on a limited scale, in April next.

The Grand Duke Constantine will visit Paris early in April. Nineteen thousand English medals, and 145,000 clasps, have arrived in Paris, for the decoration of the French army.

SPAIN.

A DEPOT of arms and ammunition has been discovered at one of the Madrid theatres. The director of the establishment has been arrested.

Marshal Espartero has sent to the Queen his resignation as Member of the Senate.

It is rumoured that the Government intend to nominate between thirty and forty new senators. Some of the journals express a hope that England and France will join in the expedition which Spain is about to send against Mexico; they say that the intervention of those two Powers would have the effect of preventing the United States from increasing the divisions between the native and Spanish races, which divisions they labour to foment, in order to facilitate their eventual conquest of Mexico.

Queen Christina has determined on taking up her residence definitively at Rome.

Ministers were resolved on recommending to the Queen an amnesty for all the Carlists concerned in the insurrection of 1854.

AUSTRIA.

THE Emperor has ordered a complete list of all soldiers condemned for desertion to be made out, and it is very likely a general amnesty will shortly be proclaimed for such offenders.

A letter from Vienna states that the European commission of the Danube displays great activity, and that in the month of March works for clearing the mouths of the Danube are to be commenced. It adds that dredging boats for keeping the river clear have been ordered in England.

PRUSSIA AND SWITZERLAND.

RUMOURS are abroad all over the Continent that the Prussian Government refuses to fulfil that part of its Neuchâtel engagement which implied a renunciation of its sovereign rights over the Principality.

The "New Prussian Gazette" announces positively that the conferences on the affair will be held in Paris, and that Count de Hatzfeld is to represent Prussia.

The Emperor of Russia is expected at Berlin on his way through Paris to Nice.

RUSSIA.

A DEPUTATION of English merchants at St. Petersburg recently waited upon the Emperor to pay their respects, and were well received. His Majesty expressed a hope that the commercial relations between Russia and England would become more and more developed, to the advantage of both nations.

The Emperor is going to Warsaw.

The marriage of the Grand Duke Michael of Russia with the Princess Cecile of Baden is to take place at St. Petersburg in March.

General Gortschakoff has tendered his resignation, the reason assigned being the state of his health.

A report from the Russian Minister of War declares that the truce concluded with Schamyl during the Eastern war expired in the month of May, 1856, and that operations against that leader have been begun along the whole line of the Caucasus.

ITALY.

SOME time since a report was suddenly put into circulation throughout Naples, that the King had abdicated. This rumour was immediately contradicted, and a number of persons, who had been too forward in showing joy at the news, arrested. It was thought that the affair was over, when the police recommenced making arrests, and this time among the clerks in some of the Ministerial offices. General astonishment was excited when it was heard that the police had arrested one of the nephews of M. Bianchini, a nephew of M. Pasqualoni, the procureur-general, and one of the sons of a general devoted to the King. The secret of these arrests is that a copy of a decree of abdication had been sent to the Governor of Sicily at Palermo, but the latter not finding it to agree with his other despatches, and suspecting its authenticity, demanded explanations by telegraph. These young men are suspected of sending over the false document.

A proclamation praising Milano, and urging the soldiers to imitate him, has been circulated among the Neapolitan troops.

The anniversary of the Neapolitan constitution granted on the 29th of January, 1848, was marked by an event which made a deep impression—79 persons were thrown into prison. The Liberals covered the walls of the Toledo with tri-coloured placards.

A telegraphic despatch from Naples, dated the 11th instant, says, that "the creation of a free port, and the complete revision of the custom-laws, have been decided in Council by King Ferdinand."

The convention concluded between the Neapolitan Government and the Argentine Republic cannot be carried into effect, inasmuch as only six of the political prisoners in confinement have agreed to expatriate themselves, and they are too few to form a colony.

The Emperor of Austria remains at Milan. He has been visited by the King of Bavaria. The Austrian troops evacuated Parma on the 5th of January, thus terminating an occupation of eight years. The Emperor has, by imperial decree, raised the town of Monza, which constitutes one of the suburbs of Milan, to the rank and title of a royal city, with all the privileges thereto attached.

The pro-legate at Bologna, Cardinal Viale Prelà, whose rigorous administration has disconcerted the inhabitants of the Legations, was some time back assailed by the population, whilst driving out, with showers of apples and stones. He escaped with difficulty, and has since fallen ill from the effects of the attack. The "Austrian Gazette," however, attributes his indisposition to inflammation of the lungs. For a long time past the Cardinal's decrees were regularly torn down in the night by the population.

Several political trials, ending in convictions, have taken place at Rome. Dr. Ripani, of Cremona, who was some time ago sentenced to hard labour for twenty years, has been pardoned at the instance of the French Government, which claimed him. He was physician to Garibaldi's legion, and after the fall of Rome he remained under the protection of the French.

GREECE.

ALL the arrangements for the evacuation of Greece by the allied troops having been made beforehand, it was thought that the embarkation of all the men and stores might be completed by the 15th to the 18th inst. The French expeditionary corps in Greece amounts to 1,800 men, consisting of marines, marine artillery, and half a squadron of dragoons.

The Code Napoleon has just been adopted in Greece. The "Moniteur Grec" has commenced the publication of the text, and the entire reproduction will be equivalent to a promulgation.

AMERICA.

MR. PRESTON S. BROOKS, the Representative who assailed Mr. Charles Sumner in the Senate House at Washington, died there, of "croup," on the 27th of January.

The Committee of Inquiry into the alleged corruption in Congress has met with obstacles. The correspondent of the "New York Times," Mr. Simonton, summoned as a witness, refused to answer questions put to him; refused to give up the names of the Members of Congress who asked him to get money for their votes. Thereupon the committee reported the fact to the Congress, the Congress ordered the Sergeant-at-Arms to take Simonton into custody for his contempt; and Simonton gave notice of an action for false imprisonment against the Sergeant-at-Arms. In order to meet future cases, a short bill was "rushed" through Congress. It

provides that "any person wilfully refusing to give testimony or to produce papers before any committee, shall be liable to indictment for misdemeanor, and on conviction pay a fine of not more than 1,000 dollars, nor less than 100 dollars, and be imprisoned in the Penitentiary not more than one year, nor less than one month. No person thus testifying shall be held to answer before any court of justice for any facts disclosed before the committee of either House." Four other witnesses, it is said, had resolved to defy the committee; but it was thought probable that the "names" of the culprits would, after all, come to light.

Congress, with but little debate and without a syllable being uttered with reference to the slavery question, passed bills providing for the admission of Oregon and Minnesota into the Confederation of Sovereign States.

THE WAR IN CHINA.

LETTERS from Canton relate that all the foreign buildings there had been burned and pillaged.

On the evening of the 20th of December, Mr. Cowper, sen., father of Mr. Cowper, shipbuilder, of Whampoa, was forcibly carried off by a party of Chinese. The naval Commander-in-Chief forthwith published a notice to the Chinese inhabitants of Whampoa that unless Mr. Cowper was delivered up, he would destroy their dwellings. When the steamer left, Mr. Cowper had not been recovered. The Hong Kong papers hint that he is in the hands of the mandarins, but it was thought much more probable that he is kept a close prisoner by parties who expect to gain a large sum of money for his ransom.

The British lorch *Aima* has been taken by the Chinese, and the foreign portion of her crew murdered.

The postal steamer *Thistle*, laden somewhat deeper than usual, was towing the British lorch *Anonyma* to the Bogue, when just as she had passed Second Bar, between eleven and twelve o'clock at night, a fleet of a hundred Chinese junks opened fire upon her. Nearly at the same time another hundred, a little a-head on the port side, also commenced firing. Two of the shots went through the funnel, and dashed out the brains of the Chinese pilot crouched beside it—one shot broke the arm of the cook of the *Anonyma*, who, with the rest of the crew, had just come on board—another killed a passenger and one Chinese sailor; altogether some dozen shots struck the vessel, one of them, on the starboard bow, being but a few inches above the water line, others going through the paddle-boxes. The *Anonyma* was of course cast off, and proves a fine prize, having in at the time a full cargo of merchandise saved at great expense and risk from the Honam pack-houses. The *Thistle* went on to the Bogue, and having obtained the services of a surgeon from Nankin to dress the wounded men, proceeded on her course.

It was rumoured that the Emperor was desirous of peace, but that the Cantonese were uncontrollable. The Chinese at Hong Kong had, it was said, formed a plan of burning the place, but the English were on their guard against their projects.

Among the losses sustained by the burning of the foreign factories at Canton is the irreparable one of Dr. Williams's printing establishment, including the large fonts of Chinese type with which Dr. Morrison's "Dictionary" was printed, and which had been presented to Dr. Williams by the English Government in 1844. Besides the types and presses, there was a large stock of books on hand, numbering in all over 10,000 volumes, and comprising copies of nearly all the works which were issued during the twenty-four years the press had been in operation, and some of which will never be reprinted. Besides these, Dr. Hance's valuable collection of botanical works has been consumed.

THE WAR WITH PERSIA.

STEAMERS and transports, at the latest advices from India, are daily returning to Bombay from the Persian Gulf for the embarkation of fresh troops and stores. A correspondent with the force informs us that the troops are intrenched in an encampment about a mile and a half from the fort of Bushire, in the neighbourhood of the wells, two regiments only being quartered in the town. Nothing of importance had occurred, but a force of 12,000 to 15,000 Persians were said to be in the neighbourhood, and contemplating an attack upon our camp. The health of the troops is satisfactory, some men who were at first affected by the brackish water having completely recovered upon the discovery of a sweeter supply. The cold is said to be very severe at night, the thermometer falling as low as 40 deg., while in the day the heat is moderate, the range never exceeding 83 deg. The troops appear to be suffering considerable hardship, however, at present, from the camp being two miles distant from the shore, and all supplies having to be brought that distance by the men, through a loose sandy soil. Provisions are very dear, but an improvement, it was thought, was beginning to manifest itself by an increase in the number of native dealers.

The part of the army remaining outside Bushire are in wooden huts, like those used in the Crimea. The head-quarters are on an eminence, to which the name of Balaklava has been given; and the inner bay has been designated the harbour of Sebastopol. Three days after the place was taken, two Protestant Churches were established; they are in a new quarter of the town, called Victoria City. A race course has also been established; and the first day's running was to take place on January 1, the horses of the country being admitted to contest for the prizes. A few days after the installation of the troops a proposition was made to the General-in-Chief to establish a railway across the town and the English lines, a distance of about two miles. The proposition was accepted, and the line is to be made without delay. A cemetery has been marked out, and surrounded by a dry wall. In the centre has been erected a monument to General Stopford, killed at the taking of the town. It is formed of a pyramid of red marble, on the base of which have been inscribed the General's name and titles, and the date of his death. Near this monument are the tombs of Lieut. Col. Malet, Captain Wood, and Lieut. Utterson, all killed on the same occasion; and those of three other officers who were carried off by illness since the occupation.

Sir Henry Leeke has returned to Bombay in the *Assaye*. He is openly accused by some officers as having occasioned the escape of a large body of Persians and their guns at Hullah Bay, which would have been cut off had the urgent representations of General Stalker, as to the proper position of the gun-boats of the fleet, been attended to.

General Outram and his staff sailed from Bombay on the 16th of January for the Gulf.

Four thousand English and 1,000 Sepoys have entered Cabul, and are to march with the Affghans upon Herat.

Several interviews had taken place between Dost Mahomed and Sir John Lawrence, but the nature of the communications had not transpired. It is thought not at all improbable that a British occupation of Candahar and Cabul has been proposed to the old chief as the most effectual counter-check to the Persian aggression upon Herat.

Intelligence from Teheran, of the 7th January, states that the enrolment of troops and the departure of Generals Ferlate Khan and Mirza Mehemed Khan for Farsistan have been the occasion of grand *feles*. Troops have been sent from Farsistan, from Kernan, and from Arabistan, against the English. Reinforcements have been sent from Khorasan to the Cabul frontier.

The Russians were concentrating troops on the banks of the Caspian. It was said that the head-quarters of the Russian army of the Caucasus will be removed to Erivan.

Esa Khan, who governed the town of Herat in the name of the Shah, after having defended it against the Persian troops, has been assassinated by an Affghan.

The ratifications of the treaty signed between Russia and Persia on the 5th of January last were exchanged at Teheran on the 18th of the same month. This treaty cedes to Russia a tract of land on the frontiers of Turkey. This tract is situate between Bayazid and Nakhshivan. This new possession will give Russia a complete command of the strategic road from Trebizond on the Black Sea to the Persian frontier by Erzerum. The Russian Government has been endeavoring, since the treaty signed with Persia on the 22nd of February, 1828, to obtain the advantage which Persia has now granted. It is asserted that orders were immediately sent from St. Petersburg to construct a line of fortresses on the territory lately ceded.

OPENING OF THE FRENCH LEGISLATURE.

THE EMPEROR'S SPEECH.

The French Legislature was opened on Monday afternoon by the Emperor.

His Majesty, in commencing his speech, said that last year his speech had opened with an invocation to Divine Providence. He prayed for guidance in the paths of humanity and civilisation; and that prayer seemed to have been heard. "Peace," continued the Emperor, "has been signed, and the difficulties of detail which obstructed the execution of the Treaty of Paris have been fortunately surmounted. The dispute between the King of Prussia and the Helvetic Confederation has lost all warlike character, and has enabled us soon to hope for a favourable solution. The understanding re-established between the three protecting Powers of Greece henceforth renders unnecessary the prolongation of the sojourn of English and French troops at the Piræus. If a lamentable misunderstanding has arisen on the subject of the affairs of Naples, it must still be attributed to that desire, which equally animates the Government of Queen Victoria and my own, to act everywhere in favour of humanity and of civilisation. And now that the best understanding prevails between all the great Powers, we ought to endeavour seriously to regulate and develop the strength and the riches of the nation at home. We ought to struggle against the evils which a progressive society is not exempt from."

His Majesty then adverted to the distresses which have accompanied the general prosperity of the empire. Machines, railways, new currents of trade, the influx of gold, the indefinite expansion of credit, and other elements of an unprecedented prosperity, leave many unfortunate aground, demanding in vain that circumstances shall be adjusted to their own diffidence or incapacity. "Of these," said the Emperor, "some must be stimulated, others kept in check; we must feed the activity of that panting, anxious, exacting society which in France expects everything from the Government, and to which, however, it must oppose the limits of the possible and the calculations of common sense. To enlighten and to direct, that is our duty. The country is prosperous; it must be admitted, for, despite the war and the famine, the rate of progress has not slackened. The produce of the indirect taxes, which is a certain sign of the public prosperity, exceeded in 1856 by more than 50,000,000fr., the amount, already exceptional, of 1855. Since the restoration of the Empire its revenues have increased of themselves to the amount of 210,000,000fr., deducting the new taxes. Nevertheless, there is much suffering among a portion of the people, and as long as Providence does not grant us a good harvest, the millions given by private charity and by the Government will be but feeble palliatives. Let us redouble our efforts to remedy evils which are beyond human foresight. Various departments have been afflicted this year by the scourge of inundations. Everything leads me to hope that science will succeed in subduing nature. I make it a point of honour that in France rivers, like revolutions, must return to their beds, or that they must not leave them."

The Emperor then proceeded to advert to the financial position of the empire. He said, "Considering the many demands of the moment, I have resolved to reduce the expenditure without interrupting the great works, without compromising what has already been achieved—to diminish certain taxes without inflicting injury to the finances of the State. The budget of 1858 will be presented to you balanced; all anticipated expenses are therein stated; the produce of the loans will suffice to pay for the war expenses. The public service in all its branches will be provided for without our having to appeal again to the public credit."

"The budget of war and of the navy has been reduced to fair limits, so as to respect the promotions so gloriously earned, and to maintain a military force worthy of the greatness of the country. It is with this idea that the annual contingent has been fixed at 100,000 men. This number is 20,000 higher than that of ordinary levies in time of peace; but according to the system which I have adopted, and to which I attach a great importance, about two-thirds of these conscripts will remain two years under arms, and will afterwards form a reserve which will furnish to the country, on the first appearance of danger, an army of 600,000 disciplined soldiers. The reduction of the effective force will permit me to increase the pay of the lower grades and of the rank and file—a step which the dearth of provisions renders indispensable. For the same reason the budget allows a sum of 5,000,000fr. to commence an increase in the smallest salaries of the lesser civil officials, who, in the midst of hard privations, have given a good example of honesty and devotion. Nor have we forgotten an appropriation for a Transatlantic line of steamers, the establishment of which has been so long required. Despite this increase of outlay, I shall propose to you to abolish, from the 1st of January, 1858, the new war tax. This abolition is a sacrifice of 23,000,000fr.; but in compensation, and conformably to the wish expressed at various times by the Legislative Corps, I shall take into consideration the imposition of a new tax on moveable property."

The Emperor then announced that "an idea perfectly philanthropic" had induced the Government to transfer the convict establishment to Guiana; but the ravages of yellow fever have now led to the choice of Algeria as a convict establishment. A Bill, the object of which is to fertilise the *landes* of Gascony, is to be introduced; and a new military penal code is to be presented to the Legislature.

In conclusion, the Emperor, in very earnest terms, thanked the Deputies, as this is the last session of their legislature, for the devoted and active support which they had lent him since 1852.

AUSTRIAN OUTRAGE IN ITALY.

A PERSON named Bianchi, a veterinary surgeon, was recently at the theatre in Mantua. He was quietly observing the performance, when an officer gave him a reprimand. Bianchi answered him by stating that he had not spoken, but that if any other person had done so, he had a right to speak. There was an exchange of angry words; on the following day, the officer sent him a challenge. It was agreed that the duel should be fought with pistols. The place of meeting had been chosen near the city, at a spot called the "Wood of the Fountain." In the morning, just as the young man, accompanied by his second, was proceeding to the ground, he met some guards, who ordered him to return home. He gave notice of this hindrance to his antagonist; and as the authorities had interfered, told him to choose some other spot in the neighbourhood where they might be free from interruption. It is doubtful whether this message was delivered. The officers repaired to the place of assignation, and, not finding their adversary, took the matter in a serious light. In the evening, Bianchi was at the play, when the officer entered, and violently attacked him. Bianchi, in his defence, alleged the circumstances as they had occurred, and added, for the rest, that he was ready to go the next day to whatever spot should be indicated to him. The officer would not listen to any reason, and said to him, "You are a coward and a hog, like all the —," but could not end his speech, because Bianchi struck him to the ground.

At this moment four officers entered, who had been waiting at the door, and at the same time a patrol, which had been attracted by the noise. The patrol arrested Bianchi, but the officers ordered the guards to release him. No sooner had the patrol obeyed, than the officers drew their sabres, and Bianchi defended himself with a chair. The bystanders, who were without arms, endeavoured in vain to interfere; the unfortunate Bianchi fell, after receiving thirteen wounds, of which he is since dead. This affair occasioned great agitation in Mantua. A deputation, consisting of the municipality, chamberlains, and other personages, has gone to Milan. The Marquis Guidi del Bagno, the Marquis Cavriani, the Marquis Castiglioni, all partisans of the Government, indignant and grieved at the consequences that may be occasioned by the popular exasperation, went to the director of the police, who behaved like Pilate. They applied in vain to the Lieutenant-Governor; they then went to the Minister Bach, who was ill. Being in such uncertainty when they were admitted to an audience, they did not know what to say; but after they had left, they understood that their visit had been turned to derision, so that they are now endeavouring to obtain a fresh audience.

THE LATEST DESPATCHES FROM CANADA amply confirm all the previous accounts as to the growing prosperity of that province, and the demand which exists for labour. This is particularly the case in West Canada, more especially in the newly-settled districts.

AN AMERICAN ROMANCE.

A DR. HARVEY BURDELL was, on Saturday, the 31st of January, found dead in his room, at 31, Bond Street, New York. He had been strangled, and bore fifteen stiletto wounds in different parts of his body. The murder must have been committed on the night of Friday, the 30th, but no alarm was heard in the house. There had been no forcible entry, and nothing was stolen. The deceased was a surgeon-dentist, wealthy, and in good practice.

As suspicion did not at first extend beyond the house itself, every inmate of it was put under arrest; and the coroner's inquiry has revealed a state of things unrivalled in romance. Burdell was the owner of the house and lived in it, but was not its master. He had in an evil hour become acquainted with a "watering-place widow," named Cunningham, cruising at Saratoga and elsewhere, to whom the wealthy bachelor fell a prey. He installed her in the house, first as a lodger only, next as tenant. She established there a lover, who became lord of the establishment, and two daughters, one of whom also introduced a lover into the premises. Presently, the widow brought an action against the doctor for breach of promise of marriage, which he compromised by a written promise of constant "friendship," and something more substantial and definite—a lease of the house.

Then comes the most extraordinary part of the transactions. A few days after the action was stopped, the widow procured some man to personate the doctor, and to that man was regularly married in October. While obtaining, as far as registers could certify, the position of Burdell's wife, he, quite unconscious of the singular fraud, lived on very bad terms with her and the people whom she had gathered round him. There were constant quarrels, and he felt such fear and hatred of the woman, or some of those about her, that he expressed to a friend his terror that something would happen. He, however, added, that he was always armed, and would "rough it out till May," when he had taken legal steps to put an end to the occupancy or the lease.

The foreboding of the unhappy man was realised; on the night of the 31st of January he was murdered. The present supposition is that the man who personated Burdell, and was married in his name to the woman Cunningham, was her lover living in the house—a man named Eckel. The minister who performed the ceremony identifies the woman, but cannot speak confidently of the man. He thought at the time he had false whiskers on, but the suspicion was not strong enough to induce him to make any remark.

The evidence on this point reads more like a bit of audacious comedy than the tragedy it has proved to be. The plan was deeply laid, and, could Burdell have been got rid of quietly, would in all probability have succeeded. On the proof of the marriage being established—and the certificate and evidence of the clergyman would have been conclusive—the widow, in the name of Burdell, would have claimed a third of the deceased's property, which amounts altogether to 100,000 dollars. The previous action for breach of promise, and the terms on which the parties were known to have been, would have explained the marriage; and the question of the personal identity of the deceased would not have been raised. What hastened the scheme is not known. The intention of the murderer appears to have been frustrated by a desperate resistance on the part of the victim. The attempt to strangle him must have failed, and the knife been used in a violent struggle. Whether his death was meant to appear as a suicide, or how it would have been explained, can only be conjectured; one supposition is, that the body would have been placed in the street, to be found "garrotted," that mode of robbery having lately been extensively practised in New York. No attempt, however, had been made to remove or conceal the body, which was found while the rest of the family was at breakfast, by the doctor's boy, who did not live in the house. The inquiry has discovered motives enough for the murder, but as to whose hand committed it there is yet no evidence—nothing but the suspicion that points at Eckel.

IRELAND.

THE DOUTY V. THE PROTESTANT VERSION.—In the Dublin Prerogative Court, on Saturday, the case of "Keefe v. Kinnegan" having been called on, Dr. Wiley stated that the Rev. Mr. O'Farrell was in attendance for the purpose of being examined on the part of his (Dr. Wiley's) client, but that the Rev. Gentleman, having scruples as to being sworn on the Protestant version of the Bible, considered that he should be allowed to be sworn on his own Bible. Judge Radcliffe said he was not at liberty to yield to the application. The Rev. Mr. O'Farrell then took the book, observing that he consented to be sworn under protest, because he felt serious scruples as to being sworn on a version of the Bible which his Church would not allow him to receive. The oath was then administered in the usual form.

EXTRAORDINARY EQUESTRIAN FEAT.—An extraordinary feat of horsemanship was performed in Kilkenny, last week, by Mr. Courtney, of Ballyedmond, county of Cork. In pursuance of a wager laid for a considerable sum with a brother member of the Kilkenny Hunt Club, while at supper in the club-house, he sent for his gray horse, White Lion, and, having mounted the animal in the club-house hall, proceeded deliberately to ride up stairs—two flights—into the club-room, round the supper table, and, having leaped a fire-screen set up for the purpose in his route, he rode down stairs again in perfect safety, and without White Lion once stumbling or evincing for a moment the slightest indication of a sense that he was called upon to perform any uncommon feat. The difficulty and danger of riding down stairs in particular were largely enhanced by the circumstance of each step being bound with thick plates of brass, on which had the iron-shod foot of the animal once come it would have been impossible that he could have kept his legs.

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION.—Mr. George Harrison, an extensive farmer at Dromlagh, near Ballinasloe, was, on the evening of Thursday week, driving homewards in his own car. On arriving within two hundred yards of his house, Mr. Harrison observed that the horse shied, and called to the servant to drive on. The driver having applied the whip, the animal suddenly moved towards the side of the road, and at that moment a gun was discharged by a man who crouched behind a large holly bush at a short distance. The gun had a flint, and a vivid flash having proceeded from the pan, Mr. Harrison distinctly saw the man on one knee taking deliberate aim at him. Fortunately, the sudden movement of the horse saved Mr. Harrison's life. The assassin immediately decamped. Suspicion rests strongly on a man who used, a short time since, threatening language for having been refused potato ground.

A LUNATIC AT LARGE.—A labouring man, living in the neighbourhood of Ardara, Meath, who has had occasional fits of mental aberration, was seized with a furious fit of madness a few days ago, fell furiously upon two women, and tore them with his teeth, like a dog. The arm of one woman was torn in various places, from the wrist to the elbow; while the leg of the other was ripped, from the hip downward, in a most shocking manner. The madman was at length beaten off with sticks, and committed to Trim Jail. The woman who was last attacked is, it seems, in a very precarious condition; and the people living in her neighbourhood are alarmed lest she may herself go mad and injure others. So strong is this feeling, indeed, that it was proposed to place her in the workhouse, but the guardians are of opinion that they have no authority to admit her.

SCOTLAND.

NEW DOCK IN GLASGOW.—It is finally resolved to proceed with the construction of the south-side dock. The accommodation which it will afford to foreign shipping renders its early completion a matter of great public importance.

MINERAL DISCOVERY IN LINLITHGOWSHIRE.—Ironstone of the finest quality has just been obtained close to the village of Blackburn, Linlithgowshire, and in a property near Blackburn, coal of a very fine quality has been got even in the operation of draining for agricultural purposes, so near is the mineral to the surface.

SIR JOHN McNEILL AND COLONEL TULLOCH.—Edinburgh is about to petition the House of Commons to give formal expression to the public sense of the services rendered by Sir John McNeill and Colonel Tulloch, as commissioners in the Crimea; also to ask the House to address her Majesty to bestow some mark of Royal favour upon the Commissioners. The petition will bear the signatures of a very large and influential proportion of the citizens.

BREAKING INTO A THEATRE.—Between Friday night and Saturday morning last the treasury of the Queen's Theatre, Edinburgh, was broken into, an iron safe opened by means of a false key, and upwards of £70 carried off. The depredators are supposed to have remained concealed in some of the lobbies of the house after the performances were over, and to have escaped, climbing down the outside of the theatre, from the window of the treasury to the ground.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH AND THE ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY.—The Emperor of the French has shown his recognition of the importance and value of the Royal Scottish Academy by forwarding to it four valuable pictures as examples of the works of four of the greatest names in France. The pictures sent are "The Charge of St. Peter," by Ingres; "A Jewish Wedding in Morocco," by Eugene Delacroix; "The Defence of Paris in 1814," by Horace Vernet; "The Sons of Edward IV. in the Tower of London," by the late Paul Delacroix.

THE PROVINCES.

ART TREASURES EXHIBITION, 1857.—The executive committee of the Art Treasures Exhibition have decided upon appropriating a portion of the building to a gallery of photographic pictures. The number of pictures for which space will be provided is about 1,000, and circulars have been issued, addressed to the principal photographers in the United Kingdom, by Mr. Delamotte, calling their attention to the proposed gallery. The committee aim at forming a large collection of photographic portraits of eminent public men. Daily musical performances will take place during the Exhibition, which is to be opened in the coming summer. There are to be musical festivals on a large scale on the great festivals of the year, for which artists are to be engaged from all parts of England and the Continent. On the opening day, which is to be early in May, the orchestra will include 100 instrumentalists, in addition to a chorus of about 500 performers, and a number of eminent soloists.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY.—Mr. George Crossley, of the hotel at Pakeney, near Leeds, was driving a cow up Holme Lane (a solitary place), when suddenly three men rushed upon him from the sides of the lane, and knocked him down. One of the men held Mr. Crossley's head to the ground by kneeling on his neck, another held his hands while leaning over his body, and the third emptied his pockets. The robbers escaped.

ROBBERY OF RAILWAY SHARES.—Some time ago, a man of gentlemanly exterior called at the office of Mr. W. Cooper, sharebroker, Birmingham, stating that he was Mr. Thomas Walker, town clerk of Wolverhampton, and that he wanted to sell some South Staffordshire Railway shares. A day or two after the broker received a letter dated Wolverhampton, and signed "Thos. Walker," directing him to sell ninety "South Stafford," fifty for cash, to be paid on the following Wednesday. Having ascertained that a Mr. Walker was town clerk of Wolverhampton, he sold the shares, and paid the money to his new client, who called for it on the appointed day. In the course of the same day, Mr. Cooper learnt from another broker that he also received a letter from the same person about the sale of South Stafford. Upon this the two brokers made inquiries and found that the shares which had been sold were still standing in the company's books in the name of Charles Shaw, of Birmingham. They also found that Mr. Walker, the town clerk of Wolverhampton, had no knowledge of the affair. On their communicating with Mr. Shaw, that gentleman made a search among his securities, and discovered that one hundred and sixteen South Staffordshire certificates, amounting for £10,000 Derby stock, about fifty Mexican bonds, and a mercantile bill on Montreal, were missing.

CONFESSION OF A MURDERER AT HALIFAX.—On Saturday afternoon, a middle-aged man, named James Smith, a blacksmith, made the following confession of murder at the Halifax police-office:—"I have come to give myself up. Another man and myself killed the governor of Carlisle jail about fourteen years ago, by throwing him over the banisters. I have been uneasy in my conscience many years, and now I am determined to get rid of it." He added that he and his accomplice were undergoing two months' incarceration for poisoning at Carlisle when the crime was perpetrated. On being examined a short time subsequently, Smith seemed inclined to withdraw what he had said, or reduce it to a charge brought against him at a public-house. Inquiries afterwards made by the police, however, elicited information which, if it failed to establish the charge, cast great suspicion upon the prisoner. The name of the governor was Orriege, and he lost his life, it seems, by falling over some banisters, but not in the jail. The prisoner is a native of Carlisle, but he left that neighbourhood about the time at which he fixes the commission of this crime, and for some years has resided in Halifax. The investigation of the case is being prosecuted by the police.

COLLIERY EXPLOSION.—On Thursday week a dreadful explosion of fire damp occurred in the Pew Fold Colliery, Ashton, about four miles from Wigan, by which three colliers were killed and two others very seriously burned. The explosion took place about four o'clock in the afternoon, caused, it is said, by one of the unfortunate men going in too close proximity with a new air-road, not yet thoroughly completed, with a naked candle in his hand. The names of the deceased men are—Desmond, Bradley, and Harrison, a single man. The two injured men are now lying in a precarious state.

THE "MUTINY" IN THE MERRY.—Charles O'Rourke, the first mate of the American ship *James E. Bogart*, died at the Northern Hospital, Liverpool, on Saturday evening. It will be remembered that he sustained severe injuries to the head by being knocked down by a negro, one of the crew, who struck him on the head with a capstan bar after the deceased fired one shot at him with a revolver, and was about to fire another. He was getting better of his injuries, and is supposed to have died of some internal disease.—Thomas Hudson, an unlicensed shipping master, who shipped a number of black sailors on board of the *J. L. Bogart*, for Mobile, saying that she was the *Robin Hood*, for China, has been prosecuted by the Liverpool solicitor for the Board of Trade, and fined by the Magistrates £20, or in default to be imprisoned, with hard labour, for three months.

DEATH THROUGH DRINKING.—Two men named Bennett and Gardner, had been engaged in conveying some malt from Canterbury to Whitstable, on Friday (the 13th), and on their return had to bring some spirits which were over proof. On the road they contrived to abstract a portion of the spirits which speedily took effect, and rendered them senseless; in which state they were found, placed on their wagons, and driven into Canterbury. Lying in this stupified state, one of them, Bennett, became suffocated before his arrival in the city, and the other was only saved by a persevering use of the stomachic pump. These and other appliances, however, succeeded in restoring consciousness to the victim of greedy folly, and he rallied sufficiently to attend the inquest next day and give evidence. He attempted to account for their inebriated state by the fact of the spirits being over-proof; but it is not thought so little as he represented to have been taken would have so powerful an effect, nor did he pretend to know how the spirit was drawn from the cask.

FORBIDDING THE Banns.—On Sunday morning this very rare occurrence took place in the parish church of Mottram. When the vicar was proclaiming the banns of marriage, a person arose in the body of the church, and forbade the banns between Thomas Robinson and Grace Gee, stating that his son was under age. In a subsequent interview with the clergyman he stated that his son was only seventeen years of age, while his intended wife was twenty-six, and that they had only been "keeping company" for one short month.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY AND ATTEMPTED MURDER.—On Friday afternoon (the 13th), as Mr. Ovendon, a linen-draper residing at a village near Reigate, was returning home in a light cart, he saw a miserable-looking man lying on the road, who supplicated his help. Mr. Ovendon jumped out of the cart to assist him, and was stooping to do so, when the man jumped up and seized hold of him, and demanded his money. Mr. Ovendon, who is a young man, resisted, when the villain fired a pistol at him and wounded him so severely that he fell down senseless. The villain then ransacked Mr. Ovendon's pockets, but in doing so missed taking a large sum of money which Mr. Ovendon carried in his breast pocket. He then went towards the cart, but Mr. Ovendon recovered sufficiently to get up and jump into it, and the horse galloped off with him to the village. Information was immediately given to the police, but the man has not yet been found. A reward of £200 is offered for his apprehension. Mr. Ovendon, though seriously wounded, is expected to recover.

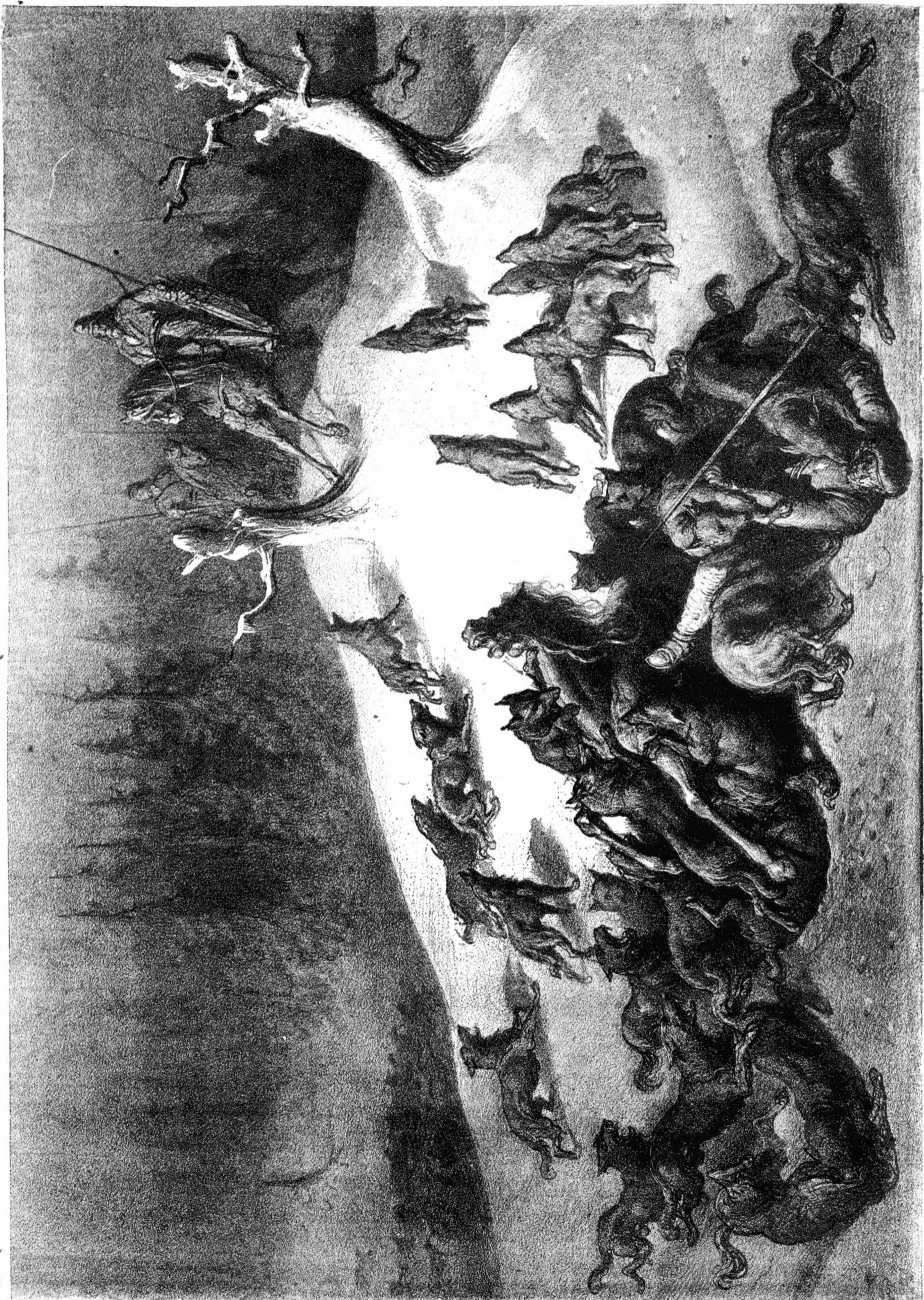
JALOUSY.—Josiah Parker, a butcher at Wells, was jealous of his wife, and last week, without any immediate provocation, he seized a large cleaver, and knocked her down with it. The neighbours rushed in and held hold of him, but he made a stab at her with a steel. After being again seized he got loose, and struck her another blow on the skull with the cleaver. He walked over calmly to the station with the police, to whom he expressed his regret that he had not also killed his eldest and youngest children. The prisoner is moderately respectable, and was some years back an inmate of a lunatic asylum.

CORN MEASURES.—An attempt is being made in the midland counties to establish some uniformity in the sale of corn at the different corn markets. At Wolverhampton resolutions have been passed by the farmers to sell wheat in future by the bag of nine score 10 lb. gross, or 72 lb. net per bushel; and malting barley by the imperial quarter of 32 quarts per bushel, instead of by the bushel of 38 quarts as heretofore, thus assimilating the weights and measures to those adopted at Birmingham. At a large meeting of farmers recently held at Gloucester it was resolved to sell wheat in that market at 60 lb. the bushel; but the millers and some of the dealers have resolved to buy only at 62 lb. the bushel.

BANKRUPTCY OF MESSRS. FOX AND HENDERSON.—Messrs. Fox and Henderson, engineers and contractors, have been declared bankrupts in the Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy, and have duly surrendered. The reluctant of a large English creditor to sign the deed of inspection agreed upon in November, and not the recent decision of the French Court, is said to have precipitated the bankruptcy. The first meeting is fixed for the 2nd of March, and the last for the 30th of the same month. The Court granted an allowance of £10 per week to each of the bankrupts.

FORGIVENESS.—SUICIDE OF A CLERK.—An article clerk in the office of Mr. Joseph Morris, the late clerk to the North Brierley Poor Law Union, had been committed for trial by the magistrates at Bradford, for embezzlement and fraud upon the Union to a small amount. Extensive irregularities and defalcation have since been discovered. The unfortunate man (who was a nephew of Mr. Morris) has since committed suicide by taking opium.

SUICIDES BY STRYCHNINE.—Mr. William Gunn, of Newport, Isle of Wight, recently poisoned himself with strychnine. He obtained the poison under the pretence of killing rats: a druggist supplied him with three grains, the whole of which the unhappy man swallowed. He seems to have died in all the agonies, and with all the symptoms, which the famous Palmer case made us so familiar with. The body was arched, the hands clinched, the feet contracted, the whole body fixedly rigid; and before he died his spasms were so powerful as to shake the gas lamps in the room below, and to render the application of the stomach-pump impossible.—A woman servant, living at Petersfield, also committed suicide with strychnine, or rather with "Buttle's vermin-killer," which contains that poison. Her symptoms were similar to those above described.





PICTURES IN "PANICONOGRAPHY," BY GUSTAVE DORÉ.

BASKIR COSSACKS ATTACKED BY WOLVES.

It has long been a pet grievance with that rapidly increasing class of artists who devote their talents to the illustration of books, and to the pictorial chronicling of passing events, that the public have never been in a position to see properly all, or indeed any fair proportion, of what they could do, and have consequently not been able to do justice to their abilities. "The best translation," plead the artists, and it must be acknowledged with some show of reason, "is but a faint and imperfect, and frequently blurred, reflex of the original. The engraver, on metal or on wood, chalcographer or xylographer, is our translator. However conscientiously, however ably, with whatever taste or elegance even, he may execute his work, he is, at the best, but a middleman who stands between us and the public, and who, if he does not absolutely misrepresent, fails in almost every instance to represent us adequately."

As in most complaints, there is in this an admixture of justice and injustice. There are very many painters, we know, whose works look much better in their India paper proofs than they do in their normal state of panel and pigment. There are very many more artists—draughtsmen renowned as book illustrators, whose performances on the wood would never be anything but lame, feeble, faulty, undecided sketches, but for the skill, patience, and good taste of the wood-engraver, who licks the artistic cub into shape, and strengthens him, and props him up, and sends him forth at last to the public, bright, shapely, and handsome. Artists endeavour to make wood-engraving cover a multitude of sins. We have all heard of the Irish gentleman who could not spell correctly with a pen that had a hair in its nib; and it is by no means uncommon to hear deficiencies of drawing, and omissions of detail, accounted for by the short-comings of the wood-engraver. Thus far, however, we are on the artistic side, viz., in thinking that it is a matter of not of impossibility, at least of extreme rarity, for the most accomplished engraver to give the exact style of the artist in his plate or his block. The thing itself is of so intangible and almost impalpable a nature. Style depends so much upon a hairbreadth of caprice in touch, upon a momentary flicker of hesitation in outline, upon a lightning suddenness in dimming a shadow, upon a meteor-like quickness in dotting a high-light; there are so many subtle turns and twistings and minute secrets of the laboratory in style, descending even to the way the pencil point is held, or the brush is swept over the block; that style may be, we think, included in that catalogue of inscrutable mysteries called in the Peninsula "Cosas de España"—things that no man understands save he is to the manner born, and has studied them from his youth upwards. It would be easy to multiply examples in illustration of this theory, but we will content ourselves with two. Let any amateur examine the wood-engraved works of that wonderful French artist who ignored his real name of Paul Chevalier, but famous all over the world by his pseudonym of Gavarni; and our own British worthy, George Cruikshank. Both these masters of style have had for the reproduction of their works the advantage of the very best and most renowned wood-engravers of their day; yet there are few admirers of Gavarni or of Cruikshank, who opine, who would not take in preference to the most elaborate woodcuts from their sketches, some of the rough, sweeping, yet graceful and velvety lithographs of the Frenchman in the "Charivari," some of the sparkling, mellow-toned, crisply-touched copper-plate etchings of the Englishman in the "Points of Humour," or (we think his greatest work) "Oliver Twist."

In etching, as in lithography, it is true the artist has no middleman. The public sees what he can do—no more and no less; and he has no *soffire douleur* for his sins of omission or commission, unless, indeed, he choose, on the wolf and lamb principle, to quarrel with the printer for troubling the stream of ink while working off his plate or stone. But lithography and etching have hitherto been luxuries, and their enjoyment has been confined to the possessors of costly scrap books and portfolios, and splendidly-bound volumes, printed on superfine paper. The thousands, the millions, who clamour for their "illustrated" newspapers, at the cheapest of rates, have necessarily been debarred from the appreciation of those masterpieces of graphic illustration which the woodcutter's graver but faintly shadows forth, and which the etcher's needle, and the lithographer's crayon only can give in their entirety of conception of purity of intention.

In giving publicity to the two admirable pictures by Gustave Doré we this week present to our readers—pictures due to the new process of M. Giffot, of Paris, called "Paniconography," and by which we are enabled to overcome the great and long-standing difficulty of printing illustrations equal in effect and identical in texture to really good lithographic prints, in the same sheet and at the same time as our ordinary woodcuts—we wish, without for a moment attempting to decry the many advantages that accrue from the use of wood engravings (which are capable, indeed, of some effects impossible to be produced on any other material), to point out the immense impulse that must be given to art—to truly popular art—to the art that appeals to the masses, instead of to the few—by the introduction of paniconography into pictorial journalism; placing as it does the painter face to face with the public; showing to the student the master at once, without translation, without mutilation—the master in every touch, in every line, in every thought that beams from an eye, or lingers in a smile, or cowers in a frown.

To few artists will paniconography be of greater service than to Gustave Doré. Any one acquainted with the sometimes sublime, sometimes grotesque, sometimes—it must be admitted—chaotic compositions of this extraordinary artist, will easily imagine how Herculean must be the task to any wood engraver who attempts to cut his drawings faithfully, and how impossible it is to give the whole of Doré's wonderful power of effect, and grasp of colour, and vigour of treatment, in a woodcut. Henceforth, however, the admirers of Gustave Doré will be able to see him in "his habit as he lives," with his "beaver up," for the lines in these pictures are his lines—the touches his touches; the light is his, and the shadow is his; and what sins there may be in his work must be on his own head.

In the "Baskir Cossacks attacked by Wolves," M. Doré has depicted a scene of painful interest, and, unfortunately, too common an event in a Russian winter. From the far north of Kamdalskain and Lake Smandra, in Russian Lapland, to the far south of the Cossack provinces among the Baskir Cossacks—those of the Don, the Ukraïna, the Black Sea, and even those of the governments of Simbirsk and Orenbourg—the wolves are rampant in the winter months. Everybody knows the horrible story of the unnatural mother travelling in a sledge with her children, and pursued by wolves, who threw out her babes one after the other. Such cases, happily, do not often occur. The wolves, unless driven to desperation by hunger, are very chary in attacking human beings; but they are the scourge of every village where there may be cattle or sheep; and they will, when in extremity, not scruple to make a dash at mankind, as in the picture before us.

Nothing can be finer than the fierce and savage movement M. Doré has given to this horrible troop. It is evidently all over with the poor Cossack who has been dismounted, as well as with his steed. They will not even have the inadequate consolation of being made into cold meat; for they will be eaten hot, and all alive. The cowardly nature of the brutes is well shown by the savage alertness they display in setting upon and devouring the unfortunate man who is "down;" but it will be observed that they keep at a respectful distance from, and only bark and yap at, the mounted Cossack, who appears on the brow of the hill, and with signs of more comrades in the distance. These howling bloodthirsty curs are treated with admirable vigour and picturesque effect. There is one long brute standing all awry on his four wicked legs, and evidently "pointing" the horse of the foremost Cossack. We cannot see his head, but we are certain that he is licking those abandoned lips of his, and that there is a dreadful struggle going on in his carrion heart between poltroonery and gluttony. The gray, leaden, lake-charged sky; the wintry mist; the pattering paw-marks of the wolves in the snow; the weird ghostly fir forest glowering through the snow-veil; and weirder, ghastlier still, another hungry, ravenous, howling pack of wolves, who come "pricking fast," but still in shadowy fashion, to join their comrades; all these adjuncts are given with force and dexterity, and with a command of chiaro scuro, and picturesque grouping, quite astonishing.

In his second tableau, "Peasants of Lapland Pursued by Wolves," M. Doré is wilder, stranger, more picturesque, and infinitely more poetical.

Rearing in sharp shadow against the immense and blazing disc of that sun, which in these remote northern latitudes never seems to rise or set, but is always there in the heavens, bright, huge, splendid, yet cold in its brightness, is something you might at first imagine to be the Chariot of Phaeton, but which is indeed a sledge, drawn by a reindeer, and bearing two Lapland peasants, wrapped in skins and furs. The whole picture, with the exception of the sun's disc, is gray in tone, and we have no difficulty in assuming the season to be the bitterest of mid-winter. Gray is the grisly band of wolves, who, like the skeleton hounds in "Der Freischütz," course after the sledge and its occupants. One wolf alone appears in the foreground, and keeps an account-current with the sledge. The terrified reindeer rearing up on his hind legs, half frightened out of his wits, yet determined to keep up the pace, is excellently well portrayed. This time we have ghostly larch and pine trees, as well as fir. The two Lap peasants evidently regard the event as one of every-day occurrence. They are excited, but not alarmed. One urges on the reindeer to the top of his speed; the other (we hope he has plenty of powder and shot) blazes away at the pursuing troop from a barrel which we sincerely trust may be that of a Manton or a Pritchett.

The only fault we have to find with Gustave Doré's wolves, is this: that they are a little too well fed. We miss in the Baskir Cossack picture that mangy, cankered, lantern-jawed, poverty-stricken, famine-punched, gutter-bell expression, which is so characteristic of that worst of all bad dogs, the wolf. But this objection may be, perchance, but hypercriticism, and advanced with sufficient knowledge of the previous facts. May not M. Doré's wolves have dined for many days before on other Cossacks, and so rounded themselves to a comfortable corpulency? G. A. S.

OBITUARY

WILBERFORCE, ARCHDEACON.—February 8, at Albano, near Rome, aged 54, died the Rev. Robert Isaac Wilberforce, formerly Archdeacon of the East Riding, and Rector of Barton Agnes, Yorkshire. He was the second son of the late celebrated William Wilberforce, and brother of the Bishop of Oxford. He was formerly one of the chief leaders of the Oxford or Tractarian movement, and probably the most learned of that body, in a strict sense. His publications in support of the views of his party were numerous, including "The Five Great Emperors," "Rutilius, a Tale of the Third Age," three voluminous treatises on the "Eucharist," "Holy Baptism," and "Church Authority," and a "History of Erastianism," besides numerous charges and minor pamphlets on the questions in which he was most ardently engaged, more especially on matters connected with the revival of Convocation. In 1854 he threw up his preferments and joined the Church of Rome. At the time of his death he was studying for the Roman Catholic priesthood. He was born in 1802, and graduated at Oriel College, Oxford, as a double first-class man in 1823, and afterwards was Fellow and Tutor of his college, as well as Public Examiner and Select Preacher in the University of Oxford.

RUSSELL, A. J., Esq.—On the 11th instant, at Chertsey, Bedfordshire, aged twenty-three, died Alfred John, eldest son of the Rev. Lord Writchesley Russell, M.A., Vicar of that place, and Canon of Windsor, by his cousin, Elizabeth Laura Remicott, daughter of the late Lord William Russell. This gentleman, who was nephew to his Grace the Duke of Bedford, K.G., and to Lord John Russell, was born in 1833, and was unmarried at the time of his premature decease.

CANTERBURY, DEAN OF.—On the 17th inst., died of paralysis, the Rev. William Rowe Lyall, D.D., Dean of Canterbury. Dr. Lyall was appointed to the deanery of Canterbury in the latter part of the year 1845. Previous to this appointment, Dean Lyall held several livings in different parts of the country, especially in Suffolk; he was the first Archdeacon of Maidstone, and during a brief period filled a canon's stall in Canterbury. He was also private chaplain to the late Archbishop of Canterbury when Bishop of London. Upon the news of his death the great hall of the Cathedral—used only on the occasion of the demise of any of the church dignitaries—was tolled for an hour.

DISASTERS AT SEA.

THE British barque *Agencia* was in collision with the French Schooner *Elise* on the 24th Jan., off Cape de Gat, and the schooner sank with a boy on board. The master of the *Elise* was also drowned in endeavouring to make for the barque, but four of the crew were saved and landed at Gibraltar.

The French brig *Mathilde* was wrecked off the Isle of Wight, on the night of the 17th ult., in a terrific storm. The vessel went to pieces; cargo lost; only one sailor saved out of eleven persons on board.

The British brig *Madison*, laden with wheat, was dashed to pieces on the night of the 21st ult. against the new mole of the port of St. Sebastian.

A Scotch commercial vessel, the *Welford*, was wrecked at Cape Race on Christmas Day, and all hands but the mate and two men—in all, twenty-three persons—perished. The ship and cargo were totally lost.

The male population of Barra (Shetland) are mostly fishermen, and whenever the weather is at all moderate they ply their avocation at all seasons of the year. Tuesday week last most of the boats were off as usual, and one of them, whose crew consisted of four men, was upset. One of the men was picked up by the crew of another boat, but the other three unfortunately sank before assistance could reach them.

THE WEATHER IN THE UNITED STATES.—Skating at New Orleans and Mobile, sleighing in the Carolinas, six feet drifts at Richmond, the river frozen over, mercury "a fraction below zero" at Chowee (South Carolina), chickens and pigeons frozen to death in all the Southern States, are some of the items that came in the last mail from America.

JEALOUSY.—It was noticed that a house in Madrid, occupied by a young and handsome widow, had remained closed for two or three days. It was broken open, and the dead bodies of three persons—one of them a female—were found there. The lady, who was elegantly dressed, had received two stabs from a dagger in the heart; a relative, who was paying his addresses to her, had received a pistol ball in the head; and the body of the other man was covered with stabs. The furniture was in the greatest confusion, and seemed to indicate that a violent struggle had taken place. It is supposed that the lover found a rival at the feet of his mistress, and hence the fatal drama. A letter found on the spot, and signed with the letter S., the initial of the name of the relative, announced the young man's intention to commit suicide, and requested the authorities to abstain from any investigation.

A SOLDIER'S DEATH.—The Austrian General who had the command of the troops in Bologna is dead. The immediate cause of his death was a hundred oysters of large size, which he ate at a sitting.

A TERRIBLE CONSPIRACY.—The following extract of a private letter has been posted at Lloyd's:—"Cairo, Feb. 5, 1857.—We have had a very narrow escape last night. A conspiracy had been planned to destroy the treasure train, by taking to the rails near this city, and in the confusion to plunder the trunks of the specie, amounting to £400,000, brought by the Persa steamship. It was discovered in time, and about 180 of the ringleaders have been apprehended."

A POOR BUSINESS.—British industry in France has received a serious check by the capture of two young London pickpockets at the Opera Comique. These young and enterprising gentlemen, after expiating their misconduct, will return to their native city strongly prejudiced against the French saloons and completely destitute of funds, for the contents of ten purses which the two pickpockets had succeeded in obtaining contained together less than £8. The heirs of the London swell mob and of the ticket-of-leave interest will shrug with patriotic pride on comparing the pecuniary barometer of an English crowd with that of a Continent alone.

THE REFUGEES IN LONDON.—The burial of the late M. Stanislas Worell, a Polish exile, long resident in this country, and well known in literary and political circles, took place last week at Highgate Cemetery. A great number of refugees followed the hearse in procession, and assembled round the grave. An address was delivered in the presence of 400 or 500 persons by M. Ledra Rollin, his auditors including M. Mazzini and various eminent refugees from Italy, Germany, Poland, and France. M. Guvier de Casagnac, for whose literary morality we never entertained the highest respect, has rather a highly-coloured account of the funeral in the "Constitutionnel." M. de Casagnac says that the grave was surrounded by murderers and fugitives from justice, and seems to entertain the opinion that the English police ought to have dispersed them, at least. But we manage these things better in England.

THE WESTMINSTER BELLS.—The largest of the four quarter bells for the Westminster clock was cast last week at Norton, near Stockton, the birthplace of the great bell. It is pronounced to be of the intended tone B, a fifth above the great bell. The diameter of this bell is six feet exactly, and its weight will be a little under four tons; it will therefore rank next to the great clock bells of Lincoln, St. Paul's, and Exeter, and above those of Canterbury and Gloucester, and considerably above the tenor bells of the largest peals in England—Exeter, St. Mary-le-Bow, and York Minster.

THE FASTEST SEA-JOURNEY ON RECORD.—The Royal mail steamer *Persia*, Judkins commander, of the Cunard line, on her last voyage from New York to Liverpool, made the greatest distance in four successive days that has yet been recorded, having during that period steamed 1,722 miles, averaging 14 knots per hour.

* The writer, in the course of a yachting excursion up the Gulf of Bothnia, last summer, when he ascended as far as Gamla-Harboien, in the Russian Lap country, has frequently, on deck, been enabled to read print quite as close as that in a column of the "Illustrated Times," and with the greatest ease, by sun-light, and long after midnight.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. XXXII.

A PLAY—DRAMATIS PERSONÆ, MR. STAFFORD, SIR R. PEEL.

ON Thursday, the 12th, the House was favoured with two episodes—two scenes—just such as the Members love. The Legislative business of the night was of the dullest promise, and would not of itself have attracted the presence of a sufficient number of Members to make a House. For on that night, Mr. Napier, of the University of Dublin, was to bring forward a motion for the establishment of a "separate department of justice;" and everybody who knows the House expected a long, prosy speech of two hours, followed by what is called a lawyer's debate—which is always the most wearisome discussion the House has to endure. But, lo! at the early hour of four o'clock, the House was rapidly filling; the lobby was crowded by strangers anxious to get in; and at five every seat in the galleries was occupied; the Peers' benches were all full, and not less than 300 Members were present in the House. A most unusual number at that hour, and at this early period of the session! The cause of this gathering was the notice which Mr. Augustus O'Brien Stafford had suddenly and unexpectedly put on the paper, the night before, of his intention to ask the gay and gallant Sir Robert Peel "whether the report of a speech of his (made on the 7th of January, at Salfrey, near Birmingham), which appeared in the 'Times' newspaper, be correct; especially those passages which refer to the Grand Duke Constantine of Russia, M. de Moray, and the Prince de Ligne?" The notice had only been given on Wednesday night; but as it had been duly published in the morning papers, Members and strangers had in large numbers rushed up to the House, to see and hear the expected fun. Under the gallery, we observed the Earl of Derby, Lord Malmesbury, Lord Stanley of Alderley, and several other peers of lesser note; and in the foreign gallery, the Russian Ambassador, with his pale face and white hair, contrasted remarkably with the black representative of Hayti. It was five o'clock when the "private business" of the day was finished; and about a quarter of an hour before that time, Sir Robert appeared in the lobby with Lady Peel on his arm. The lady was escorted to her proper place, where, through the openings in the brass screen, she could look down upon the tournament below; and then Sir Robert marched into the House, and took his seat upon the Treasury bench. And there he sat for some ten minutes, the House all the while very noisy, chatting and shuffling like an audience at a theatre before the play begins.

THE CURTAIN RISES.—ENTER MR. STAFFORD.

At length Mr. Speaker calls out, "Mr. Stafford;" and suddenly the noise ceased, Members hurried to their places, and the House was as still as the said theatre when the overture is finished, the curtain up, and some well-known actor is expected to make his appearance on the stage. Mr. Stafford arose, and put his question without any accompanying remark; and then followed Sir Robert. Now, as everybody knows, this speech of Sir Robert at Salfrey had caused a great sensation, not only in England, but abroad—at Paris, at St. Petersburg, and especially at Brussels, where the inhabitants had taken the matter up, had memorialised the Prince de Ligne, and elicited from him a most stinging reply to Sir Robert's remarks. That Sir Robert must leave the Ministry, was by many considered certain, and by some it was thought that his speech would be made the subject of important diplomatic correspondence, the result of which nobody could foresee. It is true that Time, who is so famous at softening down, and changing, and obliterating, had considerably altered the aspect of the matter even in a short month; yet still when Sir Robert arose, it was felt by most present that he was under a cloud, which it would require more skill than he possessed entirely to dissipate; and yet he did it, and did it admirably, and in an incredibly short time, for we do not believe that he spoke more than a quarter of an hour at most.

ENTER SIR ROBERT.

"With respect to the Count de Moray, he had only called him *le plus grand spéculateur de l'Europe*, and besides, he himself had written to Count de Moray and made all that right; and as to Prince de Ligne, why he had merely said that his Royal Highness 'was stiff and starched as Elizabeth's frill.' Well, what was there in that? He did not mean, and should be very sorry to give pain to any one, &c., &c. A good deal had been made about what he said of the Archduke Constantine. Well, he had never said one word against the Archduke; on the contrary, (here Hon. Members stared and listened intently, wondering what was coming), he had merely said that the Archduke did not appear to him (Sir R. Peel) as a simple, openhearted sailor; meaning that he was a man of greater power of mind." At this unexpected, wholly unexpected climax, the House was fairly convulsed with laughter, and certainly it was the most ingenious way of turning what appeared to be a slander into a flattering compliment that could be conceived. From this point, Sir Robert's triumph was certain, and when he talked about "holding the mirror up to nature," and attributed the quotation to *Goldsmith* (not *Pope*, as the "Times" reported) instead of *Shakespeare*, all seriousness was at an end; and on his finishing his speech with expressions of sorrow, "if he had given pain to anyone," a unanimous shout from all parts of the House proclaimed that the cloud was gone, and that the speech about which so much had been said and written would be speedily consigned to the limbo of all nonsense.

NOW THESE PERFORMANCES ARE GOT UP.

Sir Robert, when he began, hinted at a report that this scene was "arranged" between him and Mr. Stafford; and as he did not positively contradict the report, we think it very probable that the rumor was correct—at all events, we know such arrangements are made, and are by no means uncommon between even opponents. It was probably done in this way—"I say, Stafford, I want to explain that speech of mine about which there's been such a row; I wish you would ask me a question about it, will you? Say to-morrow night." "Oh, of course, if you wish it; I'll go and put a notice on the paper." And so away goes Mr. S. and puts his notice on the paper, first reading it to the House with due solemnity; and the simple people outside imagine that he is very much shocked at the speech in question; means to move a vote of censure upon Sir Robert when it shall have been properly authenticated; and perhaps hurl the Hon. Baronet from his seat in the Admiralty.

A SET-TO.

When the Honourable Baronet sat down, the majority of the Members were preparing to move off, and in a few minutes the House would have been comparatively empty; but quite unexpectedly another exciting scene came off—for it was at that time that those famous combatants Palmerston and Disraeli got up a sparring-match for the amusement of the House. The question on which they fought was the "Secret Treaty" question, which we suppose is now pretty generally understood by our readers. On the first night of the Session, Mr. Disraeli astonished the House by asserting that, notwithstanding the professed sympathy of the Government with the oppressed Italians, France had, at the instigation of England, entered into a treaty with Austria to secure to that Power its Italian dominions. This assertion Palmerston flatly denied: on a subsequent occasion he admitted, however, that there had been a "military convention" agreed upon between Austria and France to the effect, that supposing Austria should join the Allies in the Russian war, no advantage should be taken to disturb the *status quo* of the Italian provinces; but that the "convention" had not been signed; and if it had been, as it was based upon a contingency that never occurred, it would have been a dead letter. But now the Noble Premier arose and confessed that he was mistaken, for he had learned since that the treaty had been signed. Such a confession, though it amounted to but little, of course afforded too valuable an occasion for attacking the Government to be passed over by the Leader of her Majesty's Opposition; and, as might have been expected, Mr. Disraeli rose to dilate upon the "extraordinary" confession; and so the row began, and for a few minutes—perhaps about twenty—a pretty row it was. Whilst Mr. Disraeli was speaking, his backers cheered in the most uproarious and defiant manner, and the supporters of the Government looked puzzled and chafallen; but, as Solomon said nearly three thousand years ago, "He that is first in his own cause seemeth first, but his neighbour cometh after and searcheth him out;" and so when the Premier arose the tables were quickly turned, for he did not fail to notice that the main question was not, whether this "military convention" had been signed, but whether it was a permanent treaty; and whether (as Mr. Disraeli had asserted) it had been entered into at the instigation of England. This statement of the case was met by the Opposition by shouts

of "Oh, oh, oh!" which nearly drowned Lord Palmerston's voice; but they were met by a cheer from the Government side so loud and unanimous as to completely silence the guns of the opposite side. And when Lord Palmerston insisted that Mr. Disraeli charged the Government with "instigating" this supposed treaty, notwithstanding Mr. Disraeli's attempts to substitute the softer word "advised," succeeded in nailing the Opposition Leader down to the original word "instigated," the supporters of the Government were in raptures. And on his Lordship resuming his seat, though both parties claimed the victory—and still claim it—impartial observers decided that the advantage was certainly on the side of Palmerston. On the whole, however, the affair was on both sides very adroitly managed, and the blows telling, and well "put in,"—suggesting, however, to those who are not in the party atmosphere (as all such Parliamentary contests do) the mournful reflection that neither side fought for the truth, but only for victory over an opponent.

SHADOWS OF COMING EVENTS.

The debate on the Financial Scheme, which was to have come off on Tuesday, the 17th, is postponed till Friday; and there are not wanting ominous symptoms that the Ministry is in danger. Conferences have certainly been going on between Gladstone and the chiefs of the Opposition, and Lord John Russell is expected to lift up his "Constitutional" testimony against standing armies. Now, if these heterogeneous forces join in battle array, a defeat of the Ministry is imminent. And should it be beaten, one of three things is inevitable—the Financial scheme must be amended, the Government retire, or Parliament be dissolved.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

In this House, the Earl of Derby gave notice of his intention to make a motion on the subject of the Chinese war; and discussions took place with regard to the state of the Encumbered Estates Court in Ireland, and the Rights of Married Women, the latter being originated by Lord Brougham, who, however, introduced no measure on the subject.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PERSIA.

Mr. LAYARD adverted to the anomalous circumstances under which war had been declared with Persia. Reports had been spread that negotiations were now in progress with the view of arranging the questions in dispute. He inquired whether these reports were correct, and intimated his intention of challenging a formal debate on the subject on some early day.

Lord PALMERSTON stated that negotiations had begun, and were still pending, of which the Persian ambassador in Paris was the intermediary. Any debate at the present juncture would, he submitted, tend to interrupt the hitherto favourable progress of diplomatic efforts to bring about a pacific solution of the present controversy.

Mr. ROEBUCK said the circumstances of the Persian War, and of the negotiations that were going on, showed that the boasted supervision of Parliament over public affairs was a mere farce; and they could not ask a question either before, during, or after a war, and get an answer.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL said that the position of affairs in relation to this matter was peculiar, and one that required the forbearance of the House; and he deprecated any discussion on the subject. On a future occasion, however, the House would be justified in undertaking a full and searching inquiry into the whole series of transactions which had culminated in the present war.

Mr. GLADSTONE concurred in this view, observing that the Ministry had undertaken the war on their own responsibility, and would be required to justify their conduct in the face of the Legislature.

Mr. DISRAELI held that the Government were bound to show that the alleged negotiations had been seriously entertained, and were likely to result in a favourable and pacific issue.

THE BUDGET.

The House having gone into committee, The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER brought forward his financial statement. He said that it was more in the ordinary course to bring forward the Estimates before introducing the Budget, but he had reversed that course out of deference to the wishes of the House. He called attention to the state of expenditure and revenue of the current year. He stated that last year he estimated the revenue of the current year at £71,740,000; it had reached £71,885,000. The expenditure he estimated at £82,113,000, showing a deficiency of £10,000,000 and a fraction. To cover that deficiency, loans were effected. Part of the first loan of £5,000,000 was received this year; there was another loan of £5,000,000, and an issue of £2,000,000 of Exchequer Bills, making the loans available £7,000,000; only £1,000,000 of Exchequer Bills was, however, borrowed. The total receipts by revenue and loans was £79,000,000; the expenditure would be about £78,000,000, leaving a balance of more than £1,000,000. The Right Hon. Gentleman having gone through the usual comparison between his estimates of revenue last year and the expenditure, he proceeded to estimate the expenditure of the ensuing year at £65,494,000. Of this the interest on the funded debt would take £28,550,000, the charges on the Consolidated Fund £1,707,000, and the cost of the services, civil and military, would be £2,904,000; the estimate for the army and militia being £11,625,000; the navy, £8,109,000; packet service, £965,000; civil service, £7,350,000; collection of the revenue, £4,215,000; superannuation, £475,000; and a vote towards the Persian expedition of £26,500. There would also be required a sum of £2,250,000 to pay off Exchequer Bonds and a portion of the sinking fund on the last loan of £5,000,000. As regarded taxation, he proposed to reduce the income-tax to 9d. in the pound for three years, on incomes of £150; and to 5d. in the pound on incomes of £100, which he intimated would produce £9,000,000. He estimated the revenue at £66,365,000 from all sources, which, as against an expenditure of £65,494,000, would leave a surplus of £871,000.

A desultory discussion followed, but no debate in the strict sense of the term, and the formal resolution moved by the Chancellor of the Exchequer was agreed to.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE SHEEPSHANK'S COLLECTION.

Lord MONTAGUE having moved for some correspondence relating to the proposed gift by Mr. Sheepshanks of his collection of paintings and works of art to the nation,

Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY explained the conditions which Mr. Sheepshanks had attached—but which it did not appear that the Government had as yet accepted—to his magnificent present. He stipulated that the collection should be located in some convenient building in connection with the schools of art lately established at Kensington Gore, and placed under the sole responsibility of the Minister entrusted with the department of public education. The collection was to be thrown open freely for public instruction and enjoyment on all fitting seasons, and it was the wish of the donor, though not made an express condition, that the gallery should be opened on Sunday evenings.

Some unimportant business was transacted, and their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

EXPULSION OF MR. JAMES SADLEIR.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND moved a resolution to the effect that Mr. James Sadleir having been charged with divers frauds, and having failed to obey an order of the House commanding him to attend in his place on the 24th of July last, and being a fugitive from justice, should be expelled from the House. In support of this resolution, Mr. Fitzgerald briefly recapitulated the facts of the case connected with the Tipperary Bank as they had transpired in evidence before judicial tribunals, and as they related to the complicity of Mr. James Sadleir. He proceeded to describe the means taken to apprehend that Member, which, he said, had been incessant but unsuccessful, and submitted that, according to recognised precedent, the time had arrived when the House would be justified in voting his expulsion.

The motion was seconded by Mr. BUTT.

Sir F. FENNER approved of the resolution, but contended that no reason could be urged why this measure of purgation had not been accomplished in accordance with the motion brought forward by Mr. Roebuck towards the close of last session.

Mr. ROEBUCK, Mr. WHITESIDE, Sir G. GREY, and other Members having spoken, the motion was agreed to.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

On the question of going into a Committee of Supply, a discussion arose upon a question of form, in the course of which Mr. DISRAELI read a notice of a resolution he intended to propose, the object of which was to affirm the expediency of so adjusting the income and expenditure as would best secure the country against the risk of a deficiency in the years 1858-59 and 1859-60.

Mr. GLADSTONE protested against any vote upon the Navy estimates that night, or until the House had an opportunity of discussing the financial statement as a whole.

Lord PALMERSTON said no vote upon the estimates would be taken that night, and the House then went into a Committee of Supply, when

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in moving a vote of £2,000,000 to pay off Exchequer bonds, gave certain explanations of his financial statement, and

read a statement of the details of the estimated revenue and expenditure for the years 1858-59 and 1859-60, with a view of showing that the apprehensions of Mr. Disraeli of a deficiency were groundless.

After a few words from Mr. Gladstone and Sir F. Baring, the resolution was agreed to.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER gave notice that he would on Friday, in a Committee of Ways and Means, propose his resolutions on the income-tax and the duties on tea and sugar.

Mr. DISRAELI said he should then move his resolution by way of amendment.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

CANTON.

The Earl of GRANVILLE, in reply to Lord Carnarvon, stated that there was no truth in the report that Admiral Seymour at the date of the last advices had commenced throwing red-hot shot into Canton.

LAW REFORM.

The LORD CHANCELLOR intimated his intention to bring in, in a short time, seven bills for consolidating the criminal statutes.

Lord BROUGHAM declared that the only way to obtain a digest of the common law which should obtain Parliamentary sanction was to confide the task to experienced legal hands, and when that task was finished, that Parliament should accept the result of their labours without any attempt at alteration.

Some other business was then despatched, and their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

IRISH FISHERIES.

Mr. M'MAHON, in moving for leave to introduce bills to assimilate the law as to the sea-coast fisheries of Ireland to that of England, regretted that a subject of so much importance, which was as much an English as an Irish question, had not been taken up by the Government. He recited provisions of the existing law, which showed its unequal pressure upon the Irish fisheries in comparison with those of England and Scotland, pointing out what he considered to be the absurdity as well as the gross injustice of those provisions. No people in the world, he said, possessed so many capabilities for prosecuting this species of industry as the Irish.

Mr. HORSMAN said, if the measure proposed to be introduced was identical with the bill of 1855, which was rejected by the House, he could not advise its adoption.

After a short discussion, leave was given.

NAVAL ADMINISTRATION.

Captain SCOBELL moved for a select committee to inquire into the naval administration relating to the list of officers, the patronage, the promotions, the retirements, and the efficiency of the service in all its grades. He said that all he asked for was inquiry; that he attacked not this or that administration, but the system, and that his object was a mild administrative reform. He pledged himself to produce before the committee a better plan than the present.

Sir C. WOOD said this was only a repetition of a motion made last session, when the House thought it inexpedient to appoint a committee, and no additional grounds had now been laid for such an inquiry. To improve the condition of the officers of the navy, he observed, had been the object of successive Boards of Admiralty for years past, and he taxed Captain Scobell with error and misrepresentation, he added, had already undergone full investigation before a committee of that House.

Mr. W. S. LINDSAY supported the motion. He suggested, among other questions fit for inquiry, whether there should not be a permanent head of the Admiralty, who might control all matters connected with that department in the same manner as the Commander-in-Chief controlled the army.

Admiral WALCOTT said the naval profession were dissatisfied, considering that their claims were not fairly dealt with, and they objected to such vast power and patronage being vested in the First Lord of the Admiralty.

Capt. SCOBELL replied, and upon a division the motion was negatived by 97 to 76.

BRIBERY AT ELECTIONS.

Lord PALMERSTON moved for a select committee to inquire into the operation of the act of the 17th and 18th of Victoria, chap. 102, to consolidate and amend the laws relating to bribery, treating, and undue influence at elections of Members of Parliament.

The motion, after some remarks by Mr. W. Wilson and Mr. H. Berkeley, was agreed to.

The report of the Committee of Supply was brought up and agreed to. The Royal Marine Forces bill was read a third time and passed.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

JUDGMENTS EXECUTION BILL.

On the motion for going into committee on this bill,

Mr. HUGHES moved that the bill be committed this day six months. He based his motion on a variety of technical objections to the measure.

Colonel French seconded the motion.

Mr. HADFIELD supported the bill. It would prevent debtors in Ireland evading the law by coming to this country, and defeat a judgment obtained against them in Ireland, and vice versa.

Mr. WHITESIDE opposed the bill, on the ground that it would inflict a greater injury than it proposed to remedy.

Mr. BLAND opposed the bill. The bill was not for assimilating the laws of the three countries, but to alter each of them. Every facility should be given for the recovery of debts, but the House ought to be careful how they gave facilities to fraudulent men to pay money they never owed, and to fraudulent people to give undue preference to one set of creditors to the injury of others. Believing such would be the effect of this measure he opposed it.

After some further discussion, in which Mr. M'Mahon, Mr. S. Warren, Mr. Napier, Colonel Dunne, and Mr. McCann took part,

Mr. ROEBUCK said that it was true that in a civilised country the laws should be alike and have one effect; but this bill was to give a similar effect to different laws. He therefore objected to the bill, which commenced at the wrong end. They should first make the substantive laws alike, and before that was done, the House ought to scout such peddling legislation as this. (Hear, hear.)

The LORD-ADVOCATE defended the principle of the bill, and entered into a history of the measure from its first introduction in 1854 to the present time, and said that the object of this bill was to give greater effect to the course now pursued in this country, that of putting in force a judgment obtained in Scotland, without notice to the party, provided the proper forms had been complied with.

After a few words from Mr. Spooner and Mr. G. Butt, the House divided: the amendment was lost, and the House went into committee on the bill.

EDUCATION.

Sir J. PAKINGTON moved for leave to introduce a bill for the promotion of elementary education in cities and corporate towns. The plan he proposed was, that education should be permissive, not compulsory, and local, not general; leaving it to the people to decide whether they would try the scheme he proposed. His object in selecting cities and corporate towns was, that the boundaries of its operation would be defined, and it could be most beneficially tried in those places. He proposed that there should be religious toleration and freedom in the schools; secondly, that there should be local contributions raised to support the schools; and thirdly, that there should be local management and control over the funds so raised. Power should be given to the local committee to establish free schools where there appeared to be great poverty, or to admit a certain number of free scholars into existing schools.

Mr. COWPER said that he did not anticipate that any Hon. Member would oppose the motion of the Right Hon. Baronet, but approach the question with the conciliation of the Right Hon. Baronet and thus meet the opinions of all persons. He abstained from referring to the secular part of the scheme, and said that with regard to the other points, he thought there would be no objection to them. In this scheme they would get rid of the difficulty of legislating for towns and rural districts, the requirements for which were so dissimilar.

Mr. BALL was of opinion that any scheme of national education, except based on religion, would receive the direct opposition of the country. He regretted that deficiency in this scheme.

Lord R. CECIL protested against the division of the educational party into the religious and secular party, and the excluding the advocates of the Privy Council system.

Mr. COBDEN said that the question of education was not open to the charge of haste, as it had been before the public for twenty years. It was not contemplated to pay doctrinal teaching out of the rate, which was the essential difference between this and previous bills. When the bill came into operation, the difficulty of religious teaching would immediately vanish. The Bishop of Manchester approved of this scheme. There was no difficulty about the question, if they set themselves honestly about it.

Mr. HENLEY opposed the scheme, on account of its being devoid of religious instruction.

Lord J. RUSSELL congratulated the Right Hon. Gentleman on having brought in such a scheme as this, but doubted whether the country would approve of it.

Mr. HADFIELD was opposed to the scheme, which Mr. W. Ewart supported.

Sir J. PAKINGTON having replied, leave was given to bring in the bill.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

INDIA.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE moved a resolution declaring that the system under which her Majesty's Indian territory is now administered is no longer suitable to the condition and prospects of that vast empire, or for the development of its resources and the improvement and welfare of its inhabitants. He

supported his motion by describing the cumbrous and inefficient machinery by which India is at present governed, insisting that the time had arrived when the administration of that country should be withdrawn from the grasp of a mercantile company, and placed upon a simpler and more practical basis.

The Duke of ARGYLL defended the Indian Government, commenting upon the great progress already effected, and the remedial measures now in contemplation for the benefit of the inhabitants of our oriental empire.

The motion was negatived without a division, and their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TREATY BETWEEN RUSSIA AND PERSIA.

Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to Mr. Layard, said he had no knowledge of the treaty reported to have been concluded between Russia and Persia on the 5th of January.

THE FRANCHISE.

Mr. LOCKE KING moved for leave to bring in a bill assimilating the county franchise to the borough franchise in England and Wales, by giving the right of voting to all occupiers of tenements rated at the annual value of £10. The Hon. Member contended at much length for the expediency and justice of extending the franchise to the large class whom his proposed bill would allow to enjoy electoral privileges.

Lord PALMERSTON declined to consent even to the introduction of a measure which there would be no chance of fairly discussing and passing during the present session. He had no objection to extend the county franchise, upon any judicious plan that might be suggested. The present bill was, however, in his opinion, faulty in many respects. With regard to the principle of the measure, he did not concur in the argument that the right of voting should be the same in boroughs and counties. He thought that there were reasons for maintaining a distinction; that each represented different interests in the community.

After some remarks favourable to the bill from Mr. HADHAM,

Mr. DRUMMOND professed his readiness to support any measure that lowered the franchise and armed the lower classes with net or weapons by which to defend themselves against the oppressions of the superior order.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL saw no reason why the question should be postponed. He observed that the Government seemed to set upon the principle of shirking all subjects of importance or delicacy. The present session would, he thought, afford an available opportunity for discussing and carrying a large measure of parliamentary reform; and he was ready not only to vote for the introduction of this bill, but to support its second reading.

Mr. BENTINCK accused Lord John Russell of acting from party motives.

Lord J. RUSSELL briefly replied, and was defended also by Mr. I. Duncombe and Sir J. Graham, who announced that he had surrendered the principle of "fixity," and was ready to support any safe and prudent extension of the franchise. He would vote for the introduction of this measure.

Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT opposed the bill, partly because he disapproved of some of its provisions, but chiefly on account of the position of the Government, and the existing antagonism of parties in the House. He thought the present Government had exercised a wise discretion in not bringing forward questions which, in the existing position of parties, it might be difficult to carry, and he did not wish to put them into greater difficulties.

After a few words from Mr. ROEBUCK, who declared himself astounded at Mr. Sidney Herbert's sentiments, the House divided—For leave to bring in the bill, 179; against, 192—18.

MAYNOOTH.

Mr. SPOONER renewed his annual attack upon the Maynooth grant by proposing a resolution that the House should "resolve itself into a committee for the purpose of considering the acts for the endowment of the College of Maynooth, with a view to the withdrawal of any endowment out of the Consolidated Fund, due regard being had to vested rights and interests." He reiterated the arguments which he had so often presented against the continuance of the grant, and exhorted the House to purge itself from all complicity with an act that was, as he contended, a national sin.

Mr. Roebuck, Mr. Bowyer, Sergeant O'Brien, Mr. Moore, Mr. H. Drummond, Sergeant Shee, and Lord Palmerston having spoken against the motion, and Mr. Kendal, Mr. T. Chambers, Mr. Newdegate, and others, in its favour, Mr. Spooner replied, and the House divided—For the motion, 159; against, 167—8.

MINISTERS' MONEY.

Mr. FAGAN obtained leave to bring in a bill to abolish the tax imposed in lieu of ministers' money on eight corporate towns in Ireland.

JUVENILE VAGRANCY.—A meeting of the members of the Law Amendment Society and the National Reformatory Union was held on Monday evening, to consider a bill recently brought before Parliament to suppress juvenile vagrancy. Lord Brougham presided, and among others present were the Bishop of London; Sir Stafford Northcote, M.P.; Lord Robert Cecil, M.P.; the Lord Mayor; the Hon. Mr. Liddell, M.P.; the Rev. Sidney Turner, and a deputation was also present from the Birmingham Educational Association. The question was fully discussed, and some alterations in the bill were made. The Lord Mayor suggested that the Government should allow some of the old ships to be used as reformatory schools.

MEETING OF UNEMPLOYED WORKMEN.—On Tuesday some hundreds of men, represented to be unemployed workmen, assembled in the north-east corner of Smithfield, for the purpose of hearing an address from Mr. Ernest Jones. Mr. Jones spoke upwards of two hours in condemnation of the Government, the aristocracy, and of our system of legislation generally, dwelling at the same time on the excellences of the People's Charter. At half-past two the meeting quietly dispersed.

DISMISSAL OF A MEDICAL OFFICER FOR CRUELTY.—Mr. Parnell, one of the out-door district surgeons of the parish of Marylebone, has been most properly dismissed from his office. The charge against him was as follows:—Parnell was called to attend a poor woman named Balcon, on Saturday, the 8th inst. Mrs. Balcon had been previously suffering from some disease which a competent authority had declared unconquerable, and her husband therefore begged Parnell not to put her to any unnecessary pain as regarded that disorder. This seems to have offended Mr. Parnell, who at once left the house declaring that he would not again attend without a new order from the guardians. This, as the poor woman continued to sulk, was obtained on the following Tuesday. On the evening of that day Parnell attended Mrs. Balcon. He then represented to her a daughter that she was lazy, and required to be reformed; and so proceeded to shake the poor woman by the shoulders. The daughter prayed him to desist, assuring him that her mother was seriously ill. Parnell treated the matter lightly, and left, ordering a blister to be applied for fourteen hours. On the following day Mr. Parnell signed and forwarded to the workhouse the following certificate:—"This is to certify that Sarah Balcon, of 3, Highworth Street, is suffering from hysterics. Cause—laziness; probable duration—life; if able to work? Yes.—(Signed) L. Parnell, Medical Officer." The woman died the morning after this certificate was written. When called before the Board of Guardians to listen to this charge, and to receive his dismissal, Parnell excused himself on the ground that he was "out of temper."

FORGERY OF A WILL.—On Thursday week an important will case, *Seaton v. Redbourn*, was decided in the Ecclesiastical Court at York, by Mr. Chancellor Vernon. The late Mr. John Jackson, of Stapleford, in the county of Nottingham, died, leaving property behind him of the estimated value of £30,000. He was a bachelor, and seventy years of age, and after his death a document was produced, purporting to be a will that he had executed on the 24th of November, 1853, two months before his death. By this will a female, named Sarah Redbourn, who had been his housekeeper for four or five years, was appointed his sole executrix and residuary legatee, but the validity of the will being contested by Mr. Seaton, a cousin-german of the deceased, circumstances transpired which led to the belief that the will had been forged. Proceedings were consequently taken against about half-a-dozen of the witnesses for a conspiracy to forge the will, and a bill of indictment was found against them at the last Yorkshire Summer Assizes; but the parties have not yet been tried. The hearing of the case occupied considerable time, and the evidence in support of the will went to show that the deceased was a man of penurious habits, that the will was made by John Oldershaw (one of Mr. Jackson's tenants), at the dictation of the testator, that two persons named Sils were the attesting witnesses, that after the signatures had been attached, the deceased acknowledged it to be his act and deed, and that after the attesting witnesses had left the house, Oldershaw, at the deceased's request, inserted his name as trustee. Owing to the refusal of the two Sils to prove the will, they were confined in Nottingham Jail, whence they were only liberated by consenting to give evidence. Whilst in jail they made statements tending to confirm the charge of forgery upon which Mr. Seaton now grounded his case, such as that the will was nothing but a swindle, and that it was a forgery, and that it was not signed until after Mr. Jackson's death, and that sufficient had been done to transport the whole of the parties concerned. In addition to this evidence was given to prove that the signature of Mr. Jackson in the will was not a genuine signature. The Chancellor said he was compelled, unhesitatingly, to pronounce the will a forgery, and to condemn the defendant in costs.

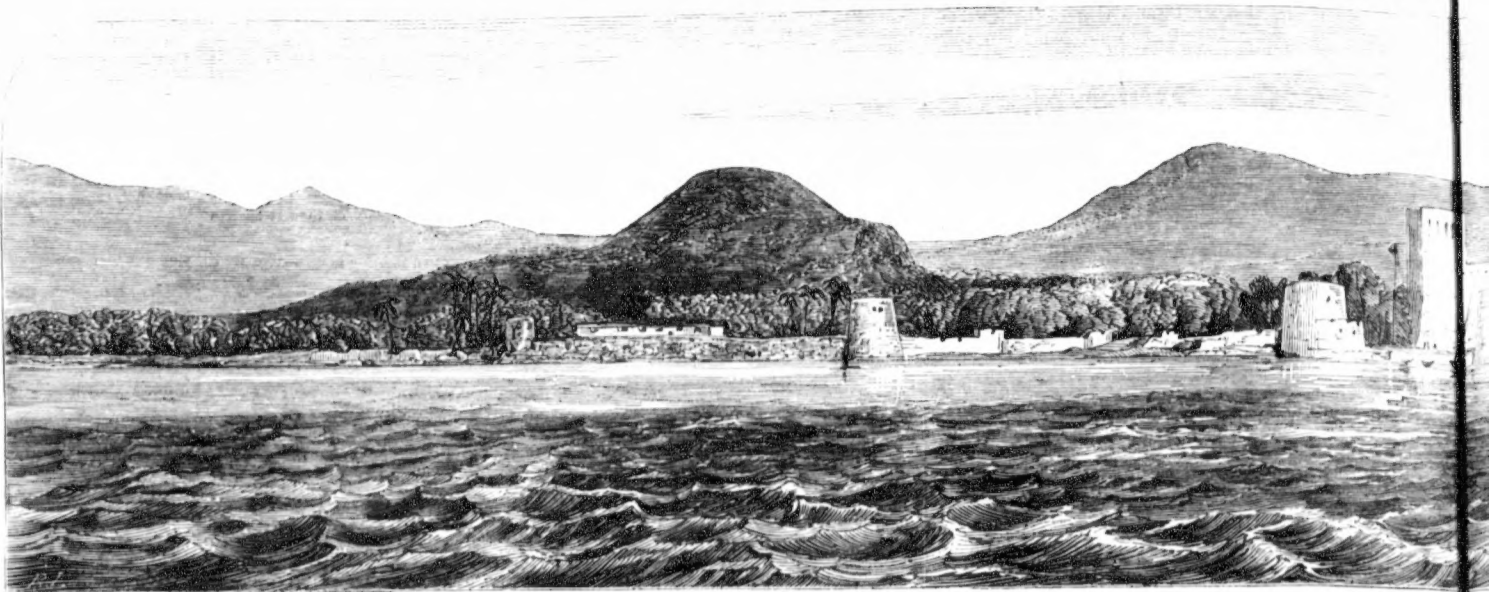
THE OUTRAGE AT THE CHATHAM POST-OFFICE.—The trial of the four soldiers who were identified as having taken part in the outrage which was committed at the Chatham Post-office, took place on Tuesday before a district court-martial. The names of the prisoners are Crisgen, Hannon, Kieffe, and Macnamara—all privates in the 87th Royal Irish Fusiliers. The witnesses examined were Mr. Dadd, the postmaster; Mr. Randall, of the Mitre Hotel; William Franklin, cauldier, and William France, armourer, both serving on board the Iris; and Eden Williams and Mary Chanly, the two women who saw the prisoners together the same evening, and who witnessed a portion of the outrage. The sailor Franklin, who was stabbed in the affray, was unable to identify either of the prisoners, as at the time he received the wound he was lying on the ground insensible. The prisoners were clearly identified as having been concerned in the outrage. The finding of the Court will not be made known until the evidence and proceedings have been forwarded to the Duke of Cambridge for his approval.

PERSIA.

WHILE our relations with Persia continue in a somewhat anomalous state; while a Persian Ambassador is negotiating with the British Envoy at Paris, and in all probability our soldiers are fighting with those of the Shah, our readers will appreciate the accompanying engravings, representing scenes connected with the expedition to the Persian Gulf.

BUSHIRE AND THE PERSIAN GULF.

The true name of Bushire, which has been brought so prominently forward lately, is not Bushire, but Bender-abon-cheher—literally, "the port and town of the grand father." This name is not a Persian, as some persons might imagine, but an Arabian one: the Persians having no taste whatever for maritime affairs. Retiring into the interior as far as possible from the sea, they have abandoned the shores washed by the waves to the Arabs, who have, in their turn, given up possession to the Europeans of those



TOWN OF SOHAR, WEST ENTRANCE



PERSIAN MILITARY COSTUMES

ports which are so well situated for carrying on an extensive commerce. In all the history of Persia it cannot be found that it ever figured as a naval Power. About a century ago, indeed, Nadir-Shah, who was a usurper, attempted to make for Persia a navy; but he failed, for two important reasons: the first, which we have already stated, being the horror which the Persians have for the sea; the second, that there is no wood in Persia suited for the construction of ships. With the exception of the forest of Mazanderan, which is too distant to be of any use, Persia does not possess a single tree fitted for this purpose.

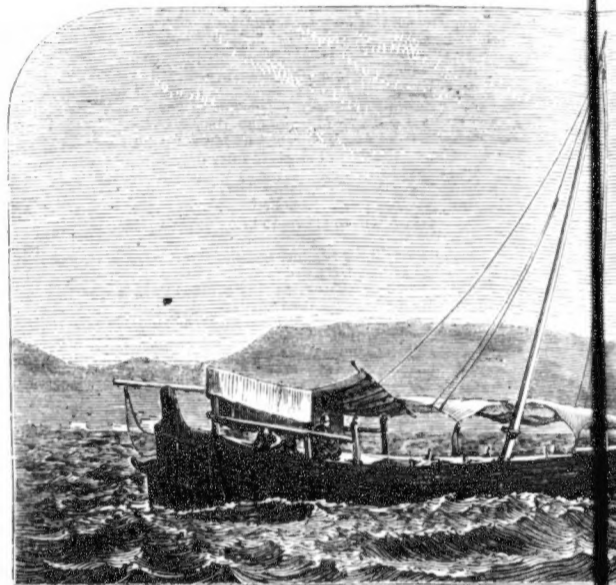
Nadir-Shah, however, was not a man to be foiled in his attempt to convert Persia into a naval Power. He was determined to have a navy, whether good or bad, and he gave orders to an English engineer, who was residing in Persia, to construct for him a vessel of large dimensions. For that purpose he gave an order to cut down, in the forests that border the Caspian Sea, all the necessary wood. Having no vehicles, the wood was carried by men for a

distance of two hundred leagues, relays being established at certain points. After this attempt to satisfy the desires of the monarch, after the work of making a Persian navy was commenced, either the King became disgusted with the difficulties of the enterprise, or his tragical death put an end to it; at all events, it is certain that the vessel was never built, and its carcass remained for many years the admiration of the Persians.

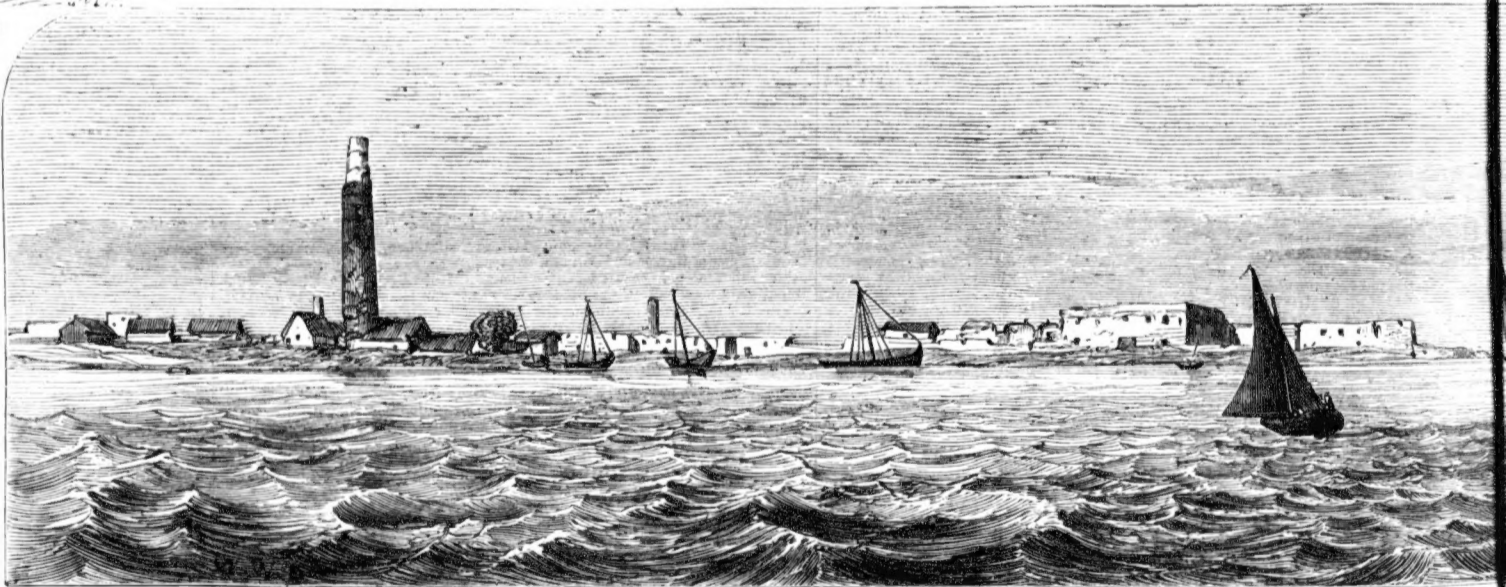
Bushire is besides a very bad port, and is without any harbour. The coast is very low, and the sands, which advance very far into the sea, prevent ships from approaching within two miles of the coast. The result is, that vessels are without shelter, and in the least gale of wind are obliged to weigh anchor. The only vessels able to approach the coast are the Arab boats called *bagala* or *battil*. It is by these vessels of a small tonnage that the trade between Bushire and Bassorah, Bombay and Mascat, is carried on. These craft have decks, and at the aft a cabin for the captain, with but one large sail, which is attached to a yard immensely long. They sail heavily, but surely, by reason of the excessive prudence of the mariners of the Gulf, who never go out of sight of land, and when they expect a storm they seldom go out at all. These *bagala* or *battil* vary in tonnage from thirty to a hundred tons. Some of them carry the English flag, and of the remainder some nine or ten belong to the merchants of the city. It is with this feeble marine force that the trade is carried on between the Gulf and the Indian Seas. They carry also passengers, principally to Bassorah, where annually a great number of Persians and Indians unite for the purpose of visiting Mecca. All these *hadjis* who go and come give some life to Bushire.

Upon the coast there are several small ports; but the only ones worth mentioning are those of Bender-Rick, the Casaab village and fort off Cape Mussendum, and the town of Sohar at the west entrance of the Persian Gulf. Five or six English vessels come annually to these ports, and, from time to time, a man-of-war makes its appearance. The French flag is seldom seen. A captain of a vessel going between Bourbon and Bombay did, indeed, once come to Bushire; but, finding such difficulty in obtaining his freight, he did not venture to come a second time; and since that date the French merchant flag has not been seen in these waters.

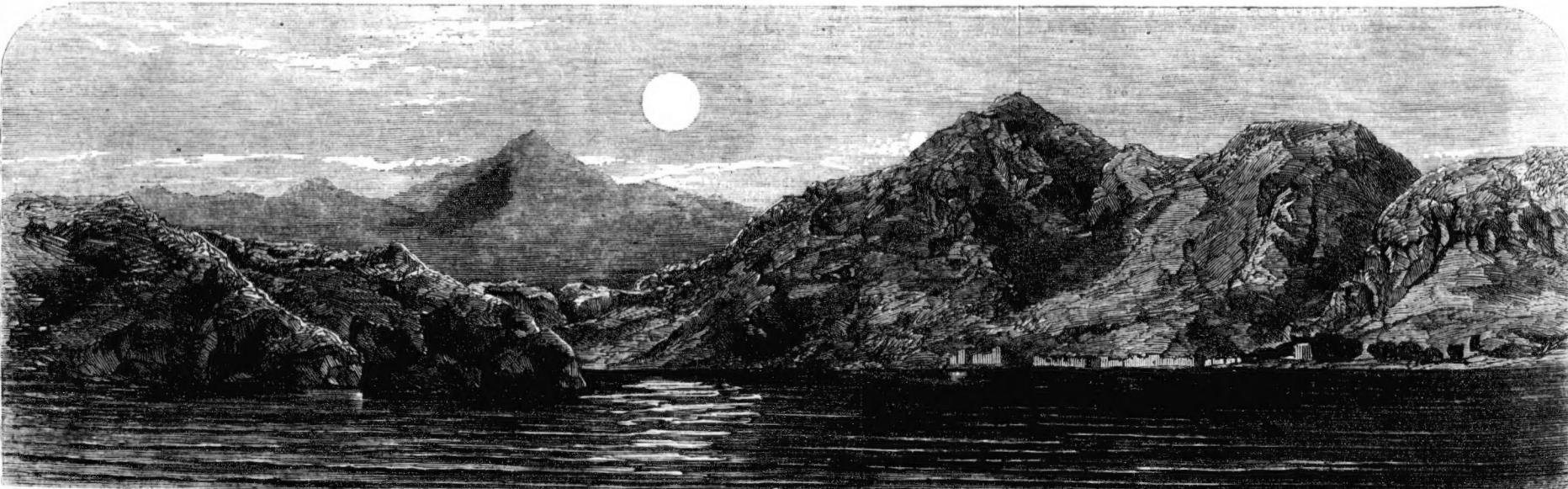
The commercial transactions of Bushire are carried on entirely by the English.



BAHREEN PEARL

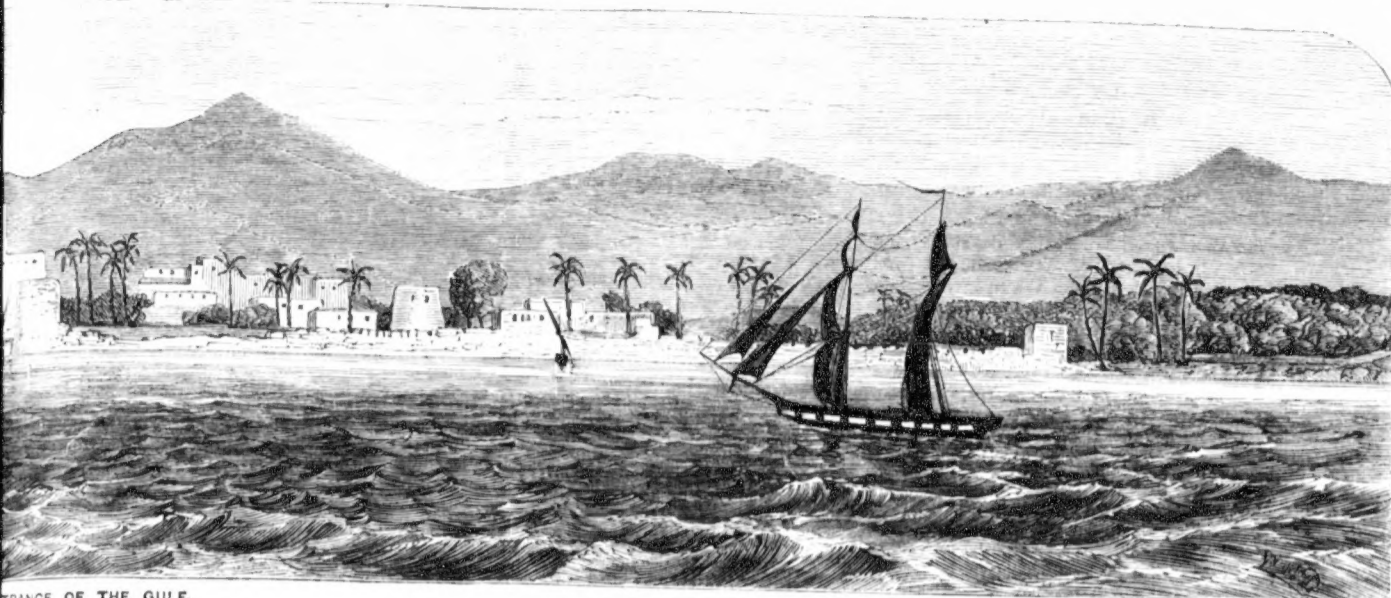


TOWN AND FORT OF



CASAAB VILLAGE AND FORT, OFF CAPE MUSSENDUM.

BY LIEUT. JACKSON, OF THE INDIAN NAVY.)



FRANCE OF THE GULF.



BOATS.

They import all the articles of manufacture at Bushire; and, by their numerous marine, monopolise the commerce of this port, and the rivalry of foreign nations is rendered impossible. As to the exports, they consist of those articles which are used in the East. Tobacco, for pipes only, called Tombeki, which is produced in abundance in Shiraz; carpets; silk, woollen, and cotton stuffs, for Isfahan and Kachan; horses, sent to the Indies; arms; a great quantity of wine to Bombay; and some drugs—these are the only exports of Bushire. But the principal branch of commerce is that of slaves, who are sent in large numbers to the harems of Constantinople. Eunuchs fetch a high price at Bushire, forty or fifty *toumans*—that is, about forty or fifty pounds; the girls vary in price from forty to fifty *toumans*, from ten to fifteen pounds. This merchandise, if we can call it so, is taxed like all others; each bringing to the Persian Custom House about four or five shillings. It is principally the ships of Muscat that are engaged in this traffic.

The quay is the most animated part of the town. There are found the factories, the great commercial houses, and the residences of the principal merchants, who are the importers and commissioners. In these depôts we find the merchandise of all countries—wine, drugs, gall-nuts, rose-water, gold money that comes from all parts of Persia; ivory, spices, tea, coffee, precious stones, china, drapery, ropes, slaves from Bombay, Malabar, Muscat, or Bassorah. Before the factories sit the merchants, smoking in the sunshine; and the Arab sailors looking at their bangalas balanced upon the sea. A great number of porters, the most part of them Arabs, are continually passing to and fro, carrying the goods to or from the ships. This is all that constitutes the life of Bushire, and it is this quarter which will in time constitute a new town.

A few years ago was seen near Bushire a three masted frigate, armed, and it was discovered that it was the property of the Imam of Muscat. This Imam, or high priest, is a sort of Sultan in his territories, which are comprised of the town of Sohar, and the village of Caidad. This personage, who is, with the exception of the Pope, the only Priest-Prince we know of, is called Seid-Seid, that is to say, the true descendant of Mahomet. His possessions, which are situated upon the Western coast of the Gulf, have a certain maritime importance. This potentate had a caprice, to which all Eastern sovereigns are

subject, to have a frigate, which they fancy gives them a certain power in the eyes of Europeans. It appears, however, that the English Government took a more serious view of the subject than, perhaps, the holy man had attached to it himself. Instead of laughing at his vanity, they ordered him without delay to disembark his artillery and his munitions of war, and the poor Seid-Seid, who is the most humble servant of the Governor of India, was obliged to obey, and his fine frigate is now reduced to a simple merchant-vessel.

THE PEARL FISHERIES OF BAHREIN.

Although the Persians have such a disgust for the sea, yet Sapor II. built a town and fort, which he called after his son Hormuzd, who succeeded him on the throne. Hormuzd built a town, which he called Bahrein, after his second son. Bahrein is situated at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, and was formerly celebrated for its pearl fisheries, which were particularly lucra-

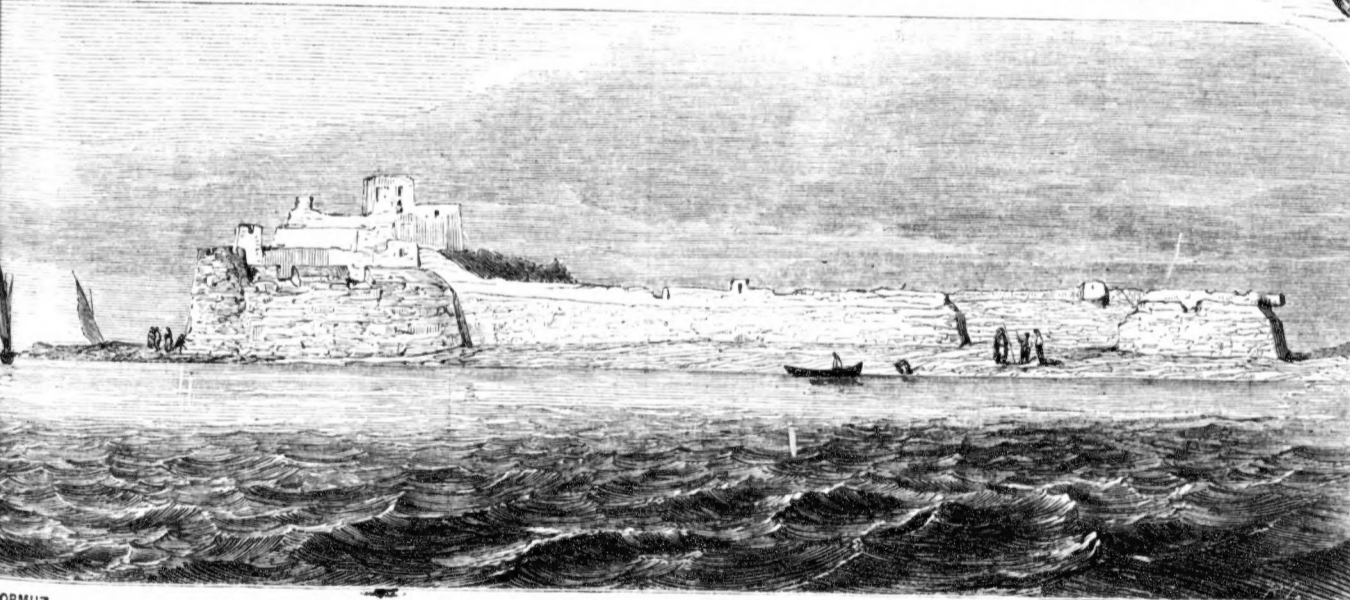


PERSIAN MILITARY COSTUMES.

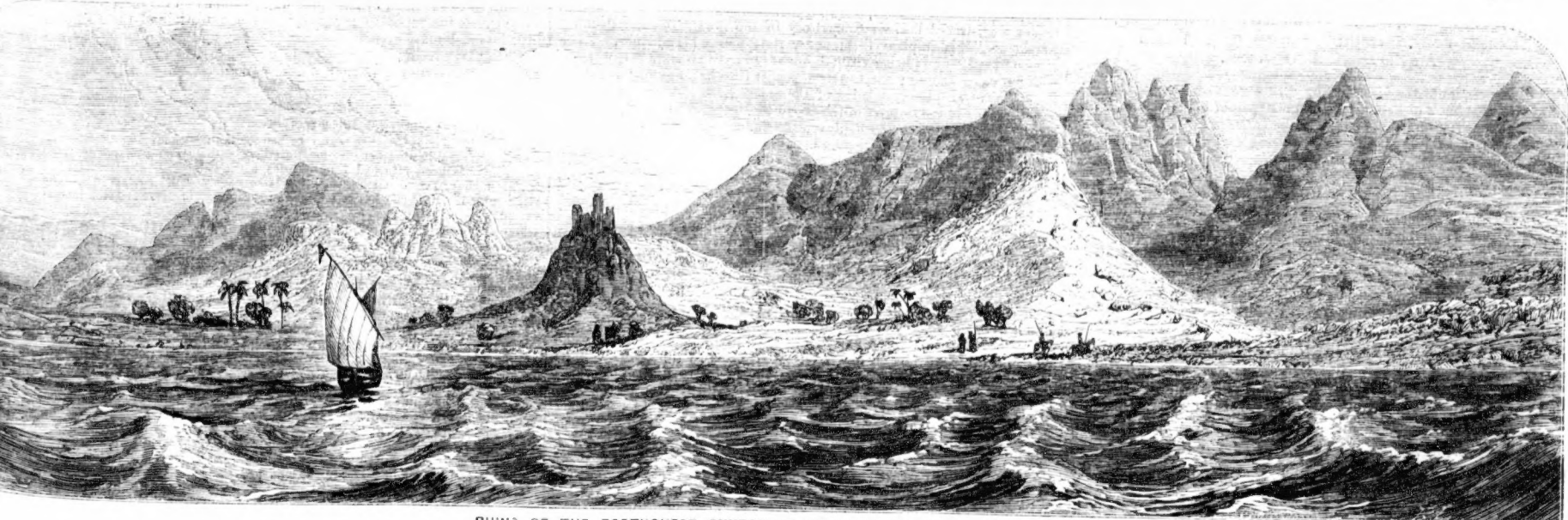
tive to the population engaged in them; but the ancient oyster banks are now sterile, and the inhabitants are obliged to seek for those of less value and situated at a greater depth. These offer great difficulties to the divers; and the result is that the pearl trade has now become very slack.

ST. LUCIA, THE PORTUGUESE SETTLEMENT.

The Portuguese, who were, a century or two back, celebrated navigators, followed the example of the Arabs in taking possession of the Persian coasts; and they built the town of St. Lucia, for the purpose of pearl fishing. St. Lucia is situated near to Ormuz. As was the wont of the early navigators both of Portugal and Spain, the settlers of St. Lucia built a handsome and imposing church near the village they had founded. This edifice, the remains of which are shown in one of our illustrations, was situated upon a rocky eminence, and had much more the appearance of a castle or fort than of a church. The town of St. Lucia, however, has shared the fate of most of the numerous foreign settlements of the Portuguese.



ORMUZ.



RUINS OF THE PORTUGUESE CHURCH OF ST. LUCIA, ORMUZ.

has fallen into decay, and its church is now a mere ruin, though, from the peculiarity of its site, a remarkably picturesque one.

PERSIAN MILITARY COSTUMES.

During the reign of Fet Ali-Shah, the relation of the Government of the Kadjars being disturbed by the menaces of Russia from the summit of the Caucasus and the plains of Georgia, the King conceived the idea of forming a regular army after the European fashion. General Gardanne, accompanied by several French officers, was at that time at the Persian Court, and was requested by the King to assist in its formation. These officers, although very young, had figured in the European wars, and it was from them that the Persians first received military instructions. The national and religious prejudices against being brought into contact with the *Frangis*, or French, retarded this reform; and it was not until the sons of the King set the example that his subjects could see the advantage. By degrees all opposition was overcome, and the Persian army became capable of going through European manoeuvres more creditably.

The first reform made was in the dress. The long flowing robes worn by the Persian soldiers, and ill adapted for military movements, were altered for a short jacket without skirts; the breeches, or *chaleurs*, that they wore, were exchanged for loose trousers, fastened at the ankles, resembling those worn by the Zouaves; the boots were made of leather, laced round the calf; and the equipment was completed by the usual shoulder-belt, to which was attached a cartridge-box and a sabre poignard.

M. Flandin relates that when at Teheran he found the non-commissioned French officers in a state of idleness—without money, and without employment. In order to obtain the little which the Persian Government had engaged to pay them, they were obliged to apply without ceasing. After a time, without the permission of the Shah or his Vizer, they quitted Persia, after having passed nearly three years in that country, and having made no improvement whatever in the Persian army, with the exception of the dress. This result, which was very important, will be better seen in our engraving than we could describe. The only part of the Persian dress which has been retained is the high, pointed cap—the other part is entirely French.

The permanent and regular army of Persia is composed only of infantry and artillery. The cavalry is irregular, with the exception of that which composes the body guard of the Shah. It consists of four or five thousand *yomans* who escort him in time of peace, and in time of war a special and chosen cavalry. The Kurds or Arabs carry long lances; the Persians their guns, the Khorakaniens or Turcomans, bows and arrows. This multitude of volunteers in all costumes, differently equipped and mounted, compose a cavalry more picturesque than useful. They are a troop of robbers, better for annoying the enemy and carrying devastation into his country than to be opposed to disciplined troops. Each man fights for his own profit, making use of his own ruses and advantages as he thinks proper. Their tactics are those of the Parthians—firing their guns or arrows, and then flying instead of facing the enemy.

At Isfahan, one sees what can be regarded as a regular army. It somewhat resembles two regiments, consisting of a number of men whose dress is of the same colour, but tattered, with a leathern band over their shoulders, that once was white, to which is fastened a sheath for a bayonet. These soldiers are armed with guns in a very bad state; the most part without locks and without triggers. They are commanded by officers as miserably dressed as themselves, whose military instruction consists of the commands to "carry arms" or "present arms."

The first figure in the group of auxiliary troops on page 120 is that of a Kurd of Makhou; the second a Kurd of Ourmizah; the third a soldier of the southern Irregular Infantry; the fourth a Kurd of Erivan. The figures in the other group (page 121) are as follow:—The first, a captain of Irregular Infantry; the second, one of the Royal Horse Guards; the third, in the foreground, a drummer; the fourth, a trooper of the Irregular Horse Artillery.

SPLENDID POSTAL DISTRICT MAP OF LONDON, (Size 2 Feet 3 Inches by 3 Feet), TO BE ISSUED TO SUBSCRIBERS TO THE "ILLUSTRATED TIMES."

The Proprietors of the "Illustrated Times" desire to announce to their Subscribers that they have in preparation

A LARGE AND ELABORATELY-ENGRAVED

MAP OF LONDON,

ON THE SCALE OF 3 INCHES TO THE MILE,

With the Names of all the Streets distinctly shown, and with THE DIVISIONS OF THE NEW POSTAL DISTRICTS clearly defined. This Map, which is 2 feet 3 inches in depth by 3 feet in width, will be printed upon a sheet of paper the same size as the "Illustrated Times," and although it is an exact counterpart, not only as regards size, but in point of minute finish, of the Map prepared by direction of the Postmaster-General for the use of the London and Provincial Post Offices, and which is sold to the public at 5s., it will be issued to subscribers to the "Illustrated Times" at

THE PRICE OF AN ORDINARY NUMBER OF THE PAPER, NAMELY, 2½d., a price which, even in these days of cheapness, is without a parallel.

Specimens are now ready for the trade; and it is expected that the Map itself will be issued in the course of a week or two. The enormous demand which is certain to arise for an article which the recent Division of the Metropolis into Postal Districts has rendered indispensable to every letter-writer in the kingdom, makes it necessary that immediate orders should be given to the various Agents.

ENGRAVINGS AFTER PICTURES IN THE TURNER COLLECTION.

In the number of the "Illustrated Times" which will accompany the Map, will be commenced the publication of a series of HIGHLY-FINISHED ENGRAVINGS ON A LARGE SCALE after the

CHOICEST PICTURES OF THE TURNER COLLECTION AT MARLBOROUGH HOUSE.

These will be produced in the VERY HIGHEST STYLE OF WOOD ENGRAVING ART, and will be printed with the greatest care. The series will be continued from week to week until completed.

TITLE-PAGE, INDEX, AND PREFACE TO VOLUME THIRD OF THE

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

are now ready and may be procured of the Agents, Price ONE PENNY. Persons finding any difficulty in obtaining copies, will, on forwarding Two Stamps to this Office, receive the Title-sheet by return of Post.

CASES FOR BINDING VOLUME THE THIRD

Are also ready. Price 2s. each.

* * A few copies of the HISTORY OF THE RUGELEY POISONINGS, including a long Memoir of Palmer, and a full Report of his Trial, illustrated with Sixty Engravings, remain on sale at the ILLUSTRATED TIMES Office, Price 6d., or free by post 8d. Persons desiring copies must make early application for them.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

AN EARLY SUBSCRIBER.—Mr. Bone, 76, Fleet Street, London, will bind the volumes of the "Illustrated Times."
J. F. Burton West.—We are unable to advise you on the point submitted to us. H., Bath.—We shall engrave the sketch of the Beaufort Hunt in our next.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1857.

THE FRENCH EMPEROR'S SPEECH.

CERTAINLY speeches from the French Throne have strong points of superiority to our own constitutional ones. They go straight to the point—they declare decided views—they meet every subject of the day. To give Louis Napoleon his due praise, he speaks out like a man; what he says is human and real, not a bundle of common-places tied up in red tape. The tone jars on an Englishman's ear,

of course; it is too decided and magisterial. But dislike it as you may, it is impossible to despise it. One does not like to see a nation so thoroughly ridden in these days; but since there are such riders, why, there is something to admire in one who has a "good seat."

Glance first at the political facts so distinctly communicated, and see how lucidly they mark out a policy. After we have been told in brief sentences that peace is secure—that nothing is to be feared from the Prussian-Swiss difficulty—that the Neapolitan question stands just as it did (its justice on the side of the Allies duly implied)—the speaker comes at once to the vital question of the time. "The best understanding exists among all the great Powers," he premises, telling us more than our own Royal Speech did; so "it is our duty seriously to look to the regulation and development of the internal strength and resources of the nation." Having laid down this principle, the Emperor fairly proceeds to "do" a leading article on the philosophy of it. He says that France is "progressing,"—meaning, of course, as we do over here—growing rich. But he does not shirk facts (*some people shirk facts!*), and openly declares that "great misery prevails." Misery, he admits, follows our civilisation like a shadow; and he plainly takes it on his Government to meet the fact.

Now, this is a good symptom; and here we see the only tolerable side of all this modern despotism following on modern revolution. Such Governments *must* apply themselves to social distress; they have no other standing ground. They cannot sit down in fine clothes, looking like kings, à la Mr. Mimesby, the actor, in a play. They must work for their monarchical living; they must reduce expenditure; they must do the same with army and navy estimates, and make lines of Transatlantic steamers. It is one of the conditions of the existence of such a form of Government, vulgar as it may appear.

But the truth is, that it is not vulgar; for the opposite notion is the modern and vulgar one. The notion that a gentleman is a man who ought only to be idle and elegant; and a king a man who drives six horses, and receives ambassadors occasionally, is entirely a modern affair. Anybody who opens an early volume of the "Statutes of the Realm" will see that there was minute legislation being constantly attempted to benefit this trade and the other trade—this working man and that working man—whether in the matter of wool, or hides, or bows, or what not. In Scotland, the most intensely feudal country in the world, they were always trying some way of helping those whom with antique simplicity Parliament calls "the poor bodies that labour the ground!" It is only since the decay of the historic portions of the constitutions of Europe that the present notion that a Government need only draw the taxes and keep down riots made its foolish appearance. No wonder we have Chartists and Levellers—men whom there is always somebody to use for his own purposes—while such notions prevail! There is a certain melancholy satisfaction in seeing things right themselves, in seeing revolutions destroy the old crass apathy, and then, despotisms endeavouring to carry out the needs of revolutions. There is a lesson in it too. And we could do better in England by learning the real lesson Napoleon has to teach us, than in raising shouts of admiration at his mere externals in the upholstery line, which prove only that the French are handsome in their Civil List allowance.

The Emperor speaks with great confidence of his position. He talks of keeping revolutions and rivers in their beds, and of his popularity with the country and the army. On these points, it is difficult for an Englishman to speak with accuracy, and delicate for him (considering the alliance) to speak at all. Assuredly, Napoleon is a shrewd man; and if he speaks like this he must know pretty well what he is about. For our own part, we are inclined to agree with the Duc de Broglie, who, with infinite epigrammatic neatness, said that he reigned "because the lower classes willed it, and the upper classes deserved it." We regard him as an instrument for achieving public work such as the later Bourbons would not do, and the Republicans could not do. And meanwhile we are glad to think that even absolute power cannot achieve in modern times the awful abuses incident to uncontrolled power in the old heathen world.

However, it is the Speech itself that claims our present attention. It will strengthen the alliance, and maintain the Emperor in that degree of respect which he at present commands in England. It marks out a pacific, useful, and decided policy; and time must settle the question between those who blame the acts which established the Empire and those who regard the Emperor as a necessary agent in the history of France.

DISSIPATION AND LOBSTERS.

"THE salmon, not the wine," has for a considerable period lain under the accusation of being a prodigious incentive to after-dinner dissipation; and we have often wondered that the Honourable House has not, ere this, been petitioned by committees of the married ladies of Great Britain to "put down salmon." On a perusal of the clauses of the New Beer Bill, introduced to Parliament by Messrs. H. Fitzroy, Hardy, W. Brown, and Headlam, we find that it is proposed to place another inhabitant of the deep under the ban of the law. Shell-fish, such as lobsters, crabs, and (we presume) oysters, are found to be provocatives of late hours, deep drinking, latch-keys, police-assaulting, knocker-twisting, Casino frequenting, "won't go home till morning"-singing, and general vice, immorality, and "obstrepulousness,"—so Messrs. Fitzroy and Company propose to render magistrates' licenses compulsory to the proprietors of "shell-fish warehouses," and so place them under rigid police surveillance. These Honourable Members being virtuous, we are to have no more roasted crabs with our cakes and ale; and Cayenne pepper is to be no more "hot i' the mouth," save with the permission of Policeman X.

With many of the features of the proposed Beer Bill we do not quarrel, considering them to be exceedingly sensible and well-timed, and framed with an earnest view to the welfare and happiness of the community. The infamous "whistling shop" nuisance, or that unholy system of unlicensed victualling, which provides the tippler with vitriolic gin in an egg-shell, produced from a bladder of poison hid in a turn-up bedstead, would receive a heavy blow from the enactment that all persons found "guzzling" in unlawful houses are to be fined twenty shillings for each offence. To be mulcted in a sovereign for a dram, would be paying rather too dearly for one's whistle. Again there is a salutary check devised for Bacchic analysts inclined to be "drunk and disorderly," in the clause inflicting a fine of forty shillings on persons, who, being drunk, refuse to leave a licensed house on request; though we foresee considerable difficulties as regards where the line is to be drawn, and by whom the decision of drunkenness is to be made: where "comfbleness" ends, and "junkeness" begins, and who is to decide when the drunkard himself disagrees. Above all, we think there will be at once a more salutary check as well as protection to the hard-working mechanic or labourer in the provisions that beer-shop "scores" (for beer drunk on the premises) are not to be recoverable, unless sued for within a week from their being incurred; and that beer-shop keepers taking pawns for beer, are to be fined one pound for every pawn.

We confess, however, that we stumble at the shell-fish. Not only are the shops where the rubicund "Cardinal of the Seas," as M. Jules Janin, with a fine eye for the picturesque, but with a lamentable ignorance of the normal hue of the lobster, and the iridescent effects of parboiling, calls

lobsters; but ice and coffee-houses, temperance-hotels, dancing-saloons, and all rooms open for public refreshment, resort and entertainment, between the hours of nine in the evening and four in the morning, to be licensed and registered, and to come under the glare of the police-bulldog. The intention of Mr. Fitzroy and his colleagues is, we doubt not, excellent. They wish to put down "Life in London" in the dissipated acceptance, altogether; but let them consider that in this sweeping licensing and surveillance edict they must necessarily include every harmless coffee-shop, where genuine muffins and spurious mocha are consumed, and whither studious penny-a-liners repair to write out their flimsy; every penny-ice shop, every eel-pie shop, every pastry-cook's doing business after the theatres are over; every quiet little nook where a late chop and kidney can be consumed; every innocent emporium where "Irish fruit," vulgarly termed baked potatoes, are sold. All these establishments are "rooms for public refreshment, resort, and entertainment;" and we very much doubt, were the law strained, whether the *al fresco* "all hot" potato-cans, the perambulating fruit-barrows, the pickled whelk, hot pea-soup, and kidney-pudding stalls, might not be brought within the same category.

We would respectfully beg Mr. Fitzroy to reconsider this portion of his embryonic bill, and to remember the danger of aggravating reasonable and proper supervision into inquisitorial and vexatious interference. Meanwhile, we think the promoters of the bill entitled to every success as far as the Parliamentary clauses are concerned, and we sincerely wish they may get it.

"LOOK SHARP."

JUSTICE is more even-handed than we give her credit for; and railway companies, notwithstanding the ingenious structure of their bye-laws, which contrive usually to make them responsible for nothing, while their passengers are responsible for everything, do not always have it their own way. A few days since, one company was cast in four hundred and fifty pounds damages, besides costs untold, for smashing a lady's ankle "through gross and scandalous negligence." Only the previous day, however, another company—we do not wish to be invidious, and mention no names—gains a signal victory over a gentleman residing at Enfield, to the extent of a fine of ten shillings being inflicted on him by the magistrate, for the high crime and misdemeanour of—What, think you?—travelling without a ticket? riding in a first-class carriage with a third-class ticket? cutting the carriage lining? smoking a short pipe? assaulting a station-master? jumping from the carriage while the train was in motion? Nothing of the sort. He was "fined" for not finding his ticket fast enough. It appears that this recalcitrant passenger was the possessor of a season-ticket, and that a rule ordaining season-tickets to be shown at a particular station has only been in force since the 1st inst. His ticket being demanded, the season-ticket holder produced in succession "several pieces of paper resembling envelopes," asking the station-master if they resembled his ticket. He next produced some gun-wadding, a razor-strop, a pen-knife, and a meerschaum pipe-case; and ultimately satisfying himself that none of these articles bore the slightest resemblance to the article he was in quest of, produced the real season-ticket from his breast-pocket. In consequence of this the train was delayed six minutes; the indignant railway authorities had him up before the magistrate, and he was fined ten shillings as before mentioned. We have not the slightest doubt that the individual so fined was actuated by a desire to annoy the railway officials, but we must say that it is rather a dangerous precedent to set up, that because a passenger cannot at once find his railway ticket he is to be hauled up before a criminal tribunal. How many times have we ourselves, have the majority of our readers, hunted unavailingly for that tiresome little coupon, finding it at last in the recess of a glove, or the cave of Adam's a waistcoat-pocket with a hole in the lining! If this "look sharp" régime is to be carried out in all its strictness, no man will take a ticket at all without fear and trembling; and the companies had better adopt, once for all, the plan of surrounding the train with detectives on its arrival at its destination, and, to save time and trouble, searching the passengers all round.

RACHEL AT MARYLEBONE AGAIN.

THE Marylebone Rachel bids fair to turn out a crocodile; and we, in common with many of our brethren of the Press, and with very many charitable hearts all over the country, shall in this case have been deceived by her sham tears. It is stated that she never had any children slain in battle to mourn, and stands in no need of comfort; that her sons were emphatically what are known in the books of the Royal Navy as "widows' men" for they never existed at all. In a word, this naughty Rachel belongs to the worshipful fraternity of Begging Letter-writers. Mr. Horsford is aware of her; and we are afraid it will not be long before she knows more of the House of Correction than the outside thereof. We do not think, however, that the persons who have taken up Mrs. Allsop's case are liable to any undue imputation of credulity; her story was so strongly, and, withal, so plainly told, and was in the first instance virtually indorsed by Mr. Broughton, who ordered her immediate relief from the poor-box. The deception, if it should prove to be such, is a very cruel and annoying one; and almost induces us to agree with the elder Mr. Weller in his axiomatic advice to his son—"Samivel, my boy, beware of vidders!"

MR. SHEEPSHANKS'S PICTURES.

THE Government, we learn, has accepted Mr. Sheepshanks's most munificent gift to the nation; and the noble collection of pictures he has formed, *non sibi sed patrie*, is to be disposed and exhibited to the public according to the wishes of the donor. We are told, also, that Mr. Sheepshanks has, without making it a specific condition to his gift, expressed an earnest wish that the collection may be open to public view on Sunday evenings. The official communicant of this in Parliament confined himself to mentioning the fact, but vouchsafed no assurance of the intention of the Government to comply with this "earnest wish."

Parliament will, of course, be flooded with petitions against opening the "Sheepshanks Gallery" at all on Sundays. But supposing any opposition to such a proceeding being overruled, may we be allowed to ask, "Why Sunday evening?" If the better the day the better the artistic deed, would not Sunday morning be better than Sunday evening? Are the pictures to be exhibited by gas-light, or in Cimmerian darkness? and are we to expect the public to leave their tea and toast, and the thousand little joys of Sunday evening at home, to tramp up to Kensington? Or is the "Sunday evening" (as we hope and imagine it to be) a misprint for Sunday afternoon—for Sunday, for any reasonable time after morning service?

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—The Hon. Captain Bernard has been returned for Bandon.—Mr. James Clay has been returned for Hull, without opposition.—The Solicitor-General has been elected for Bute, without opposition.—Mr. Hope Johnstone has been returned for Dumfries, without opposition.—Mr. Kerr has been elected for Downpatrick; a petition is to be presented against him.—The election for Hereford city has terminated in the return of Mr. Shiel, the Liberal candidate.

DECREASE OF PAUPRISM IN ENGLAND AND WALES.—It appears from a return issued to Parliament, that the total number of persons of all classes (including children) in receipt of relief on the first of January last in 623 unions and parishes in England and Wales, was 843,430, being a decrease of 33,225 on the numbers of the date of January 1, 1856; 139,130 adult able-bodied persons, male and female, exclusive of vagrants, were in receipt of relief on the 1st of last month, being a decrease of 13,044 on the numbers at the corresponding date in 1856. 50,362 of the persons relieved last month were widows.

STATISTICS OF RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—The accidents on railways in the United Kingdom during the half-year ending December, 1856, were as follow:—Number of accidents, 48; number of passengers killed, 7; injured, 224; servants of companies killed, 16; injured, 33; making the total number of human beings killed by railway accidents in the half-year, 23; injured, 257. No fatal accidents occurred on the Scotch, and only six on the Irish lines.

THE LATE HEAVY GALES.—From returns made to the Board of Trade, it appears that the number of wrecks, strandings, and collisions on the coasts and in the seas of the British Isles during the awful gales at the beginning of last month, was 340; and the number of persons who lost their lives was 186; but it is, nevertheless, a very gratifying fact that the number of lives saved on that disastrous occasion, chiefly by life-boats and the life-preserving apparatus, was 662.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN has arrived at Buckingham Palace. Her Majesty will probably return to Windsor Castle in about a fortnight. It is now said that her Majesty's ascertainment will not take place till April.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SINEY has received from Queen Victoria, as a souvenir of the coronation reception given to her Majesty and Prince Albert by the City of Paris, marble busts of herself and of the Prince, executed by M. Marochetti. They have been placed in the Salon Victoria at the Hotel de Ville.

MEETINGS to denounce the wars with Persia and China, were held last week at Gloucester, Stroud, Cheltenham, Bratton, and some other places.

AS THE EMPRESS EUGENIE was crossing the public gardens of the Tuileries on Wednesday week to go into the reserved part, a young man rushed out from among the crowd, and threw himself on his knees before her Majesty. He was immediately arrested, and being found to be labouring under insanity was sent to the Prefecture.

REAR-ADMIRAL PROVO W. P. WALLIS, has been nominated the successor to Rear-Admiral Johnstone, in the command of the South-East coast of America station.

MR. THACKERAY was to have lectured at Halifax last week, but was suddenly seized with illness, and was unable to appear.

MADAME IDA PRYFFER has arrived in Cape Town, on her way to the Mauritius and Madagascar.

THE CASTLE DISASTER, which for the last few years has manifested itself in various parts of Russia, threatens to spread into Germany. The recent ravages of the disease in Russia have been a chief cause of the late advance in the tallow market.

A STEAM-PIPE recently burst in the Michigan (U.S.) State prison, and a prisoner who was in the cell where it burst cut his throat, to save himself from being scalded to death. He was found dead.

THE WILL OF THE LATE MR. RICHARD LEY, of Weymouth Street, London, has been proved at Doctors' Commons, as under the enormous sum of £600,000.

COMMISSIONERS FROM RUSSIA have lately been in London to negotiate for the purchase of steamers on behalf of the great company for forming the Black Sea Mail, ostensibly intended for postal and trading services. Several owners of vessels employed as transports during the war have made sales to the company.

MANY PRAYER BOOKS are now sold with a looking-glass inserted in the inner side of the cover, in order that ladies may arrange their hair or admire themselves whilst using the book at church.

THE MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE held its annual meeting last week, when the question of obtaining a larger supply of cotton occupied the chief attention; and Mr. Bailey, the president, proposed to form a cotton league, to remove all obstacles to the growth of cotton in the British dominions.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, at Montrose, has been burned to the ground.

A NEGRO, the property of Mr. Hatchler, of Laurens County, Georgia, recently informed his master of a singular bank of deposit, in which he invested his spare change. He confessed that he had, during three days, swallowed twenty-five gold dollars, which he had stolen.

THE VALUABLE COLLECTION OF PAINTINGS AND WORKS OF ART at Alton Towers will shortly be brought to the hammer, with a view of effecting a speedy settlement of all claims upon the estate of the late Earl of Shrewsbury.

AN INK-KEPPER, living near the Clyde, got into a dispute with a curling, and in his indignation dashed one of the stones on the ice; it went through, and he went after it. He was extricated unhurt.

A SUPERB LAMP has been presented by the Grand Dukes Michael and Nicholas to the temple of the Archangel Michael at Sebastopol.

THE LITIGATION between the Master (Earl Guilford) and the Brethren of St. Cross Hospital has swallowed up £7,000 in costs, to pay which the next presentation to the rectory of Crediton, which is in the gift of the hospital authorities, was put up to auction, and bought in at the sum of £2,500.

THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY at Liverpool is to be laid on the 15th of April. Lord Derby, Lord Stanley, Lord Ellesmere, Lord John Russell, Sir John Pakington, Mr. Danell, and Mr. Cobden, are expected to be present.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA has ordered of Professor Ferrara at Venice, a bronze statue of Marco Polo, the celebrated Venetian traveller, to be presented to the town, and erected on one of its public places.

A FRENCHMAN has been arrested at Pera for forging Turkish firmans.

THE AMERICAN PAPERS are full of reports of severe weather at sea. Vessels after making the land blow off again, rigging frozen so that the men had to break the ice before they could go ashore; crews, nearly helpless from prostration, having to live upon the cargo, when it was eatable, and to consume portions of the vessel for firewood.

A MEETING OF IMPORTERS AND DEALERS IN TEA was held on Monday at the London Tavern, in opposition to the proposal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer relative to the tea duties.

MONSIEUR ROSSONI, Archbishop of Acerenza and Matera, has exhibited signs of insanity since the attempt upon his life.

MR. PETER HIGSON, of Manchester, Mr. Robert McGill, of St. Helena, and another person, descended the Ashton and Penfold Colliery, near St. Helena, on Thursday week. Shortly afterwards an explosion of fire-damp occurred, and suffocated them all.

THE BOOKSELLERS OF BERLIN have addressed a petition to the Chamber of Deputies in favour of the liberty of the press, and against the power now possessed by the administration of withdrawing at will the license of a bookseller.

THE REFORMATORY AND REFUGE UNION held its annual meeting at Willis's Rooms, last week. The room was well filled; the Earl of Shaftesbury presided, and several other public men took part in the proceedings. The report showed a balance of receipts over expenditure; and resolutions were passed in favour of continuing the good work.

THE PUBLIC INCOME from taxes for the year ended 30th of September last, was £71,318,066, and the expenditure £88,307,477. But for the year ending December last the income was £72,219,988, and the expenditure £82,823,400.

RUSSIA HAS PAID 600,000 silver roubles to the foreign merchants of Odessa who suffered losses by the interdiction to export, during the last war, the stocks of corn which they had purchased. Their claim for interest was refused.

A DUTCH CAPTAIN and three seamen have been drowned in the Humber by the upsetting of a boat.

THE SIXTH ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING of the Association for promoting the Repeal of Taxes on Knowledge will take place at St. Martin's Hall on the 25th. Sir Joseph Paxton, M.P., in the chair. The meeting will be addressed by T. Milner Gibson, M.P., Herbert Ingram, M.P., Sergeant Parry, and other gentlemen.

GENERAL TOM THUMB, it is given out, received 567 valentines on Saturday last.

MR. SERJEANT CHANNELL is appointed to be the new Baron of the Exchequer.

THE HON. and REV. S. WALDOUGRAVE, rector of Barford St. Martin, is appointed to the canonry in Salisbury Cathedral, vacant by the appointment of the Rev. R. Bickersteth to the Bishopric of Ripon.

THE INAUGURAL MEETING of the members of the College of Dentists was held in the Hanover Square Rooms on Saturday evening. At least 500 gentlemen, including visitors, were present.

HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY preached a sermon on Sunday last at the Church of St. Augustine and St. Faith, on behalf of the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park, which resulted in adding the sum of £27 8s. 7d. to the funds of this excellent charity.

THE OLD CHERRY-TREE TAVERN, Kingsland, was destroyed by fire on Tuesday morning. The inmates escaped with very great difficulty.

THE NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY OF FRANCE has just adopted the plan of clanking in the third-class carriages with glass instead of with curtains as formerly, and which formed but a very slight protection for travellers during bad weather.

A LIVING TOAD has been found in a block of solid coal, at Darley Main Colliery.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT has granted a further sum of £4,000 towards the expense of publishing the correspondence of the first Napoleon.

THE APPEAL OF MRS. HAYDON to the friends of literature on behalf of her son, has proved successful, and he was returned on Saturday at the head of the nine successful candidates for admission into the St. Ann's Society Schools.

THE COST OF DOVE'S TRIAL amounted to £1,200.

MR. FOLLY has finished the model he was commissioned to make for Lord Hardinge's monument; and the castings from it have been completed.

THE STRIKE OF THE BOTTLE MAKERS in the West Riding still continues, and a large number of workpeople are consequently in great distress.

THE SEAMEN AT THE PORT OF HULL are "on strike," in consequence of a proposed reduction of wages.

THE TOWN OF CANDIA is to be rebuilt; and the damages of Sinope repaired.

IN THE SURREY GARDENS HALL, on Sunday, Mr. Spurgeon was obliged, from indisposition, to abruptly terminate his discourse.

ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—It has been determined to appeal to the House of Lords against the adjudication of bankruptcy in this ill-fated corporation. Mr. Marcus, the original petitioner, has instructed his solicitors to take the necessary steps to get the appeal heard this session. The point raised will be the validity of the act of bankruptcy.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

MR. SHEEPSHANKS has given his pictures to the nation, and we hear that the deed of agreement is actually signed. The conditions are not difficult; the pictures are to be placed in a gallery well lighted and easily accessible for the purposes of instruction, away from the dust and dirt of the metropolis. This, of course, means Kensington, the donor being a great supporter of Prince Albert's anti-popular scheme for removing the National Gallery to the Gore House site. Then the pictures are to be lent occasionally to provincial exhibitions; and finally, Mr. Sheepshanks expresses an opinion that the collection should be open to the public on Sunday evenings, that those people who had no other opportunity of visiting them might then enjoy it. This last, however, is merely an expression of opinion, not a condition. There is a rumour that Mr. Sheepshanks has the promise of a baronetcy. Such a gift would not be ill-bestowed on a man who may, without doubt, be regarded as a benefactor to his country.

A new department is about to be added to the Record Office. A proposition, emanating from the Master of the Rolls, has been made for the publication of the most authentic and important chronicles of the nation. A large grant has been promised from the Treasury in aid of the proposed measure, which is one affecting our national literary importance. It will be advisable to keep Sir Francis Palgrave out of any share in this matter; he is too closely allied to the Holland House coterie to render him a desirable ally in such a cause.

I wish, sir, that you and other newspaper proprietors and editors would benefit by the noble example of Mons. P. Milaud, the new proprietor of "La Presse." This gentleman, on Sunday last, entertained at his hotel in the Rue St. George all the notabilities in literature, journalism, and the drama. One hundred and fifty sat down to dinner; in the evening there was a concert, to which came another hundred and fifty; and, finally, the whole three hundred sat down together to a magnificent supper.

Edinburgh gossips are busy with the rumour that Mr. Alexander Smith, the author of the "Life Drama," is about to espouse a Highland lady, bearing the romantic name of Flora Macdonald, of the same family, it is said, as the heroine whose memory is associated with the escape of the last Stuart, who kept his state in the regal halls of Holyrood.

Those who recollect the spirit and pungency with which the "Essays of the 'Stranger in Parliament'" and the "Governing Classes" were written, will look with interest to the publication of "Friends of Bohemia," a satirical novel by the same author, Mr. E. Whitty.

Persons interested in the doings of the Art world will be glad to hear that Mr. Solomon, one of the most rising artists of the day, has an excellent subject in preparation for the forthcoming Academy Exhibition.

M. McDowell has received a commission to execute the Turner Monument in St. Paul's. It will be remembered that the painter left £1,000 by will for the memorial; the competition was confined, I believe, to Royal Academicians.

The concert "Cantatas," by Mr. Macfarren and Mr. Hatton, produced at the Bradford Festival last year, are to be performed this autumn at the coming Norwich meeting. Besides the sacred works that have been already mentioned, "Hänsen's" "Seasons" and Beethoven's "Mount of Olives" will, I am told, be given at the Festival.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

THE LYCEUM—THE HAYMARKET—THE ADELPHI—THE OLYMPIC.

THE announcement of a new five-act play in blank verse, by Mr. Westland Marston, brought a large audience to the LYCEUM on Monday night. Not that, perhaps, very much was expected, for the belief in five-act plays has been gradually dying out, and the experience of the last few years has taught us that they are neither useful as exponents of the passions, nor as inculcating a love of poetic feeling among the multitude. Mr. Marston, however, has had better fortune than the majority of his "legitimate" brethren. "The Patrician's Daughter" and "Anne Blake" were both good plays; both clever in construction, and above the average in language; both in every respect superior to the new play, "A Life's Ransom."

The plot is somewhat as follows:—Lord Revesdale (Mr. C. Dillon) is a young nobleman of impoverished fortunes and untamable pride, who, during the reign of James the Second, is living on his estate, with his sister Felicia (Mrs. C. Dillon), a very pretty girl, and an uncommonly unpleasant neighbour, Bancroft (Mr. Stuart). Felicia loves, and is loved by one Arthur Ringwood (Mr. M'Lien), son of a rich country gentleman, Matthew Ringwood, who, however, has risen from very humble origin. Bancroft hates young Ringwood even more than he detests Lord Revesdale, and he plies the latter with insidious calumnies against his *quondam* friend Arthur. Lord Revesdale forbids the union of the lovers, and insists on his sister betrothing herself to a nobleman at Court, through whose influence the Revesdale estates are to be preserved in the family. Felicia, however, refuses positively to break her word to Arthur, and her brother rushes off to London, mad with rage and wounded pride. On his way back, he encounters Bancroft, who not only renews his former hints, but insinuates that since Revesdale's absence there has been too close an intimacy between Arthur and Felicia. Revesdale has been drinking, and in his fury burst out into an invective against Arthur, cursing the day when, as an adherent of the Duke of Monmouth, Arthur was received into Revesdale Castle, and sheltered there. The information thus blurted forth in rage is instantly made use of by Bancroft, who at once starts to impeach Arthur, while Lord Revesdale, coming to his senses, discovers that in his fury he had basely betrayed his friend, and hurries back to his home, where he finds Arthur celebrating his nuptials with Felicia. Bancroft's calumnies are thus at once overthrown, and Lord Revesdale urges his brother-in-law to fly; but Bancroft and the soldiers are upon them, and Arthur and his wife are taken prisoners, leaving the wretched Lord Revesdale utterly overwhelmed by the result of his own inconsiderate conduct, and by the curses which Felicia, on learning who was his betrayer, had called down upon him. Determined, however, to save their lives, Lord Revesdale learns from Bancroft that they shall be set free, provided he can learn the name of any person who had signed a letter of invitation to the Prince of Orange. Lord Revesdale has himself affixed his signature to such a document, and as soon as Arthur and Felicia are fairly saved, delivers up himself as the conspirator. The opportune landing of the Prince of Orange clears up the difficulty and concludes the play.

It will be seen that there is nothing very striking in this plot, and until the third act, where we get Lord Revesdale's remorse and his sister's anger, the mere delineation of pride on the one side, and maiden gentleness on the other, is, I must say, not very interesting. In the third act and in the fourth there is a certain amount of excitement, but the *Deus ex machina* effect of the landing of the Prince of Orange, and the pushing on of large ships which fire guns, is not good. It is difficult to judge of the language of a play from merely hearing it on the first night, but so far as I could judge, it seemed rather mediocre, full of the little prettinesses which are to be found in such works, but with but one line that clings to the memory in the whole five acts. This occurs when Bancroft rushes upon Lord Revesdale; the latter seizes his opponent's weapon, and, looking at it disdainfully, says, "It is a sword! I looked but for a knife." The play was well acted. Mr. Dillon was rough and forcible in the earlier scenes, and properly subdued in the later. Mrs. Dillon has scarcely sufficient *physique* for her part, but laboured womanfully and well against a distressing cold. Mr. Barrett played, as he always does, in a thoroughly sensible and artistic manner. Mr. M'Lien was gentlemanly; and Mr. Stuart, in a thick black wig, and deeply corked eyes, looked wicked enough for the character he played, which is saying a good deal.

At the HAYMARKET, Mr. Buckstone has produced a translation of Madame Emile Girardin's last dramatic work, "Une Femme qui déteste son mari," under the title of "A Wicked Wife." The scene is laid in the oft-worked time of Robespierre, and the plot of the story consists in the machinations of one Madame de Langeais, who, for the better concealment of her Royalist husband, affects the most ultra Republicanism, repudiates her own children and her husband's relations, and feigns an admiration for a *bon citoyen*. The death of Robespierre of course sets matters right (as at the Lyceum, on the good *Deus ex machina* principle), and the piece ends happily. Much of the success with which it was received

on Monday night was due to the excellent acting of Miss Reynolds, and the stolid, scarcely feigned, stupidity of Mr. Compton.

Mr. Barney Williams has appeared at the ADELPHI in a piece which he has imported from America, and which possesses all the originality, wit, and general dramatic excellence for which the other Yankee pieces played by this clever couple have been celebrated. When, however, it is narrated that "Barney" is an Irishman who wins a German castle in a lottery, and takes possession of his estate, it is not necessary to add that the audience were delighted.

The question of international copyright is about to be tried. Mr. Charles Reade, under the new law, is the sole authorised person to translate "Les Pauvres de Paris," a play which has achieved immense success in the French capital. A version of this piece has just appeared at the Strand Theatre; and Mr. Reade, it is said, attended with a couple of shorthand writers, on the first night of its performance, with a view to the trial of the question by a court of law.

At the opening of the doors of the OLYMPIC Theatre on Thursday week, I found a placard posted, announcing that Mr. Robson had seriously sprained his ankle, and was precluded from playing for a few days under the probability of "serious consequences." Mr. Robson met with the accident while performing the *Pas de Fascination*, in the extravaganza, on the previous evening.

Mrs. Nesbit's return to the stage is rumoured very confidently.

A BOON FOR HISTORIANS.—A movement has been made within the Record Office to establish a new and most valuable department. The plan originates with the Master of the Rolls, and its object is to make the monuments of the kingdom available for historical and literary purposes. To that end, a special department will be created, under the immediate superintendence of the Master of the Rolls, charged with the publication of the most authentic and important chronicles of the nation. The Treasury is willing to furnish ample funds for the purpose; and if the plan be carried out in the spirit of the design, there is no doubt that it will fully justify the liberality which shows work done for the money.

THE KRUGER COLLECTION.—Messrs. Christie and Manson submitted for sale on Saturday, in pursuance of the recommendation of the Trustees of the National Gallery, and by order of the Treasury, a portion of the Kruger collection of early German pictures not required for the National Gallery. The works were not of a character to realise high prices. The more important works of the Kruger collection were found in the Convent Church of Liesborn, and are supposed to have been painted in the fourteenth and beginning of the fifteenth centuries. They are executed for the most part on panel, and the colours are well preserved; but the subjects are treated with quaintness and peculiarity bordering upon caricature. The lots were sold to dealers and curiosity collectors, and the prices ranged from 40s. to £20. The entire sale realised only £275. "The Prodigal Son," by Jacopo Bassano, from the Galvagni collection (a very indifferent picture), was knocked down for £105. If the sum realised be deducted from the amount paid for the entire collection, we shall find that the few pictures retained for the National Gallery have cost the country upwards of £2,600.

ART IN AUSTRALIA.—Art begins to bloom in Australia. At Melbourne, an Exhibition of painting, sculpture, and photography, is now open, of the prosperity of which the local papers speak warmly. Premiums are to be awarded for the best specimens of paintings in oil, water colours, and on ivory; for the best figure in marble, Caen stone, or plaster; for the best design for a six-roomed cottage, adapted for the colony; for the best specimen of ornamental moulding; and for the best specimens of photography. The exhibition is under the patronage of the acting governor, the judges, the bishops, the heads of departments, University professors, and others. The architects of Victoria have established an institute in this city.

ACCIDENT TO MRS. CAMER RISTORI.—Political excitement at Naples has been a little relieved by an accident which has befallen Ristori. She was acting in "Phedra," and, in the fourth act, her feelings were wrought to such a pitch of excitement, that she fell amongst the lamps in front of the stage. Her arm was much cut and burned, and she has since been confined to her room.

THE RUINS OF BABEL.—It is reported in various foreign journals that M. Place, French Consul, has discovered the ruins of the Tower of Babel, in Western Asia. It is evident that the ruins are interesting, whatever they may actually be. We read that they are most imposing, and can be discovered at a distance of twenty leagues. "Six of the eight stories of the tower have crumbled away. Its base forms a square of about 190 yards. The bricks of which it is formed are of the purest clay and almost white. Before being baked they were covered with inscriptions, written in a clear and regular hand. A stream of bitumen (said in the book of Genesis to have been used in the construction of the tower) still exists in the neighbourhood, and flows in such abundance as at times to form a broad level river. Amongst the ruins, M. Place discovered a quantity of small jewels, engraved stones, and a profusion of coins. Amongst other discoveries are inscriptions on bands of gold, silver, and copper, and an unknown substance similar to ivory.

THE COUNT DE MORNY.

WHEN a clever adventurer has figured as ambassador from the Court of the Tuileries at the coronation of the Czar, espoused a Muscovite princess of surpassing beauty, purchased a seigniorial estate in Russia, and enjoyed the distinction of being ridiculed by one of the most celebrated of the modern aristocracy of England, it is not wonderful, certainly, that he should be regarded with some degree of interest by the people of this country. Such is at present the case with the Count De Morny, the subject of the accompanying portrait, the half-brother of the Emperor Napoleon, and the exalted personage, of whom the wise and prudent Sir R. Peel lately said, in his famous speech at Salisbury, "We were presented at the coronation by Count Morny, the French Ambassador, a spick and span man of considerable *aplomb*, and who, by the way, is one of the greatest speculators in the world. He speculates in everything, and bought a lot of pictures to sell again and make a profit of."

Count De Morny, son of Queen Hortense, the daughter of Josephine and the mother of Napoleon the Third, was born on the 23rd of October, 1811, and brought up by his grandmother, Madame de Souza, a woman who, before the Revolution, had ranked as Countess de Flahaut, and who is represented as having been remarkable for her beauty and intellect. He was, in good time, placed at school with M. Murot, and also formed one of the classes of the College Bourbon. Moreover, he was early introduced into society, where his talents and amiability rendered him conspicuous.

An anecdote related of the Count de Morny, when a boy of twelve, is worthy of mention. He was a favourite with Talleyrand, and taken very often to visit the famous politician. On one of these occasions Talleyrand said to a high personage, who came immediately after the Count had withdrawn, "Did you meet a little fellow, holding the hand of M. de Flahaut?" "Yes, Prince, on the staircase," was the reply. "Well," said Talleyrand, "remember what I say: that child will one day be minister."

In the year 1822, the Count entered upon his career as sous-lieutenant in the 1st regiment of Lancers, then quartered at Fontainebleau, and obtained permission to frequent the library of the Palace, where he devoted his attention to theological and metaphysical studies. He soon after obtained permission to join the French army in Africa, where he took part in the expedition to Mascara and the siege of Constantine. At Mascara, he performed the feat of crossing the whole army of Abd-el-Kader to join that of the French; at Constantine, he was wounded with four balls; and at the end of the campaign, he was nominated Chevalier of the Legion of Honour for having saved the life of General Trezel beneath the walls of the besieged stronghold.

It is well known that the Count de Morny clung faithfully to the fortunes of Louis Napoleon, when the latter was in the greatest danger; and that, when at length the struggle between the executive and parliamentary powers rendered a bold stroke necessary, he was the person to whom the Prince-President first confided the daring project which was executed on the 2nd of December, 1851.

When the *coup d'Etat* was accomplished, and President Bonaparte became Emperor of the French, the Count de Morny acquired position and influence; and, as time passed on, he was sent to represent the French Government at the coronation of the Czar. He was received at the Russian Court with a degree of attention greater even than was paid to Marshal Marmont, when he represented Charles X. at the coronation of the Czar Nicholas, and treated, not merely as the ambassador, but the private friend, of the Emperor Napoleon. He fascinated everybody who came within his sphere; and among others it appears that the Count insinuated himself into the good graces of the Princess Troubetskoi, a young lady of remarkable beauty.

The Princess, who is just eighteen, had been brought up at the institution of the Imperial Maids of Honour, and the Empress Dowager wished to place her among the ladies of the reigning Empress; but the

but the latter said, "No, I will have nothing to do with her; she is far, far too beautiful." Even persons of her own family speak of the Princess as "fearfully beautiful," and yet she consented to unite her fate with a man nearly old enough to be her grandfather.

The marriage of the Count de Morny with the young Princess Troubetzkoi was celebrated on the 19th at St. Petersburg, according to the Greek and Catholic rites, at the hotel of the Princess Kotchoubi, the bride glittering with diamonds offered to her by her husband. After the religious ceremony, the guests separated without proceeding to the hotel of the embassy. The next morning the Countess de Morny waited on the Empress to thank her Majesty for having, a few days before, sent her as a present her Majesty's portrait set with diamonds. The Count, it is said, presented his bride with diamonds to the value of two million francs. According to advices from St. Petersburg, Count de Morny and his bride will not leave for Paris before the month of May. The newly-married couple were to have left soon after the wedding, but M. de Morny received instructions to postpone his departure.

We learn that Count de Morny has executed an additional bond of connection between Russia and himself. He has purchased, in the name of his wife, a seignorial estate belonging to the Sevlosky family, situated about twelve miles from St. Petersburg.

CONVEYING WINE ACROSS THE PYRENEES.

THE accompanying engraving represents the conveying of Spanish wine across the Pyrenees to France. The scene is, in many respects, highly interesting. The wine merchants of Paris are now, says the "Annales du Commerce Extérieur," purchasing large quantities of wine in Aragon. At Carmona 5,000 barrels have just been bought, at 30*l.* the 115 litres, the same quality having been before sold at 18*l.* and 20*l.* The wines of that part of Aragon are this year very strong and very rich in colour. In consequence of the present state of communications in Spain, the wines of Aragon, which ought to be brought by wagon from Saragossa to St. Sebastian, there embarked for Bayonne, and thence conveyed to Paris by railway, are sent by the Ebro to Amposta, thence by land to Alfaques, there shipped, and afterwards reach Paris by Tarascon and the Mediterranean Railway. However incredible this may appear, there is a saving of 82*l.* a ton in making this long round by the Ebro and the Mediterranean. The carriage of a ton of wine costs from Saragossa to St. Sebastian by the present roads 150*l.*; from St. Sebastian to Bordeaux, by sea, 20*l.*; and by rail from Bordeaux to Paris, 37*l.*—total, 207*l.*; whilst by the Ebro it only costs 40*l.* from Saragossa to Amposta, 20*l.* from Amposta to Cette, and 52*l.* from Cette to Paris—making, with 13*l.* for sundry expenses, 125*l.* Notwithstanding the extra expense of the former route, it is obliged to be often resorted to from the present insufficiency of boats on the Ebro. In spite of all these difficulties of transport, business to the amount of more than ten million francs has been this year done in this part of Spain in the two articles of wine and wool.

Although a large quantity of wine is transported from Spain to the French territories in such a manner as has been described, still much is sent over the Pyrenees, in skins and on the backs of mules, as represented in our engraving. Moreover, this is the way in which sherry is conveyed from the wine districts to Cadiz.



THE COUNT DE MORNY.
"Le plus grand speculateur de l'Europe."—Sir R. Peel.

THE ALTAR AT ST. PAUL'S, KNIGHTSBRIDGE.

WE this week continue our illustrations connected with the Knightsbridge church cases, just submitted to the consideration of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

Among the decorated pieces of church furniture used under the auspices of the Honourable and Reverend Robert Liddell, and objected to by Mr. Westerton, in his capacity of churchwarden, one of the most striking is the altar of St. Paul's. Writing to the Hon. and Rev. Incumbent about the service at St. Paul's, Mr. Westerton, in one of his letters, says:—"A procession of the clergy proceeds in pompous ceremonial order from the

vestry towards that portion of the church which is in Protestant churches usually appointed as the place of the communion table, but which in this instance is occupied by a 'high altar,' on the summit whereof is fixed a large and massive cross. As you, the said Incumbent, approach this place, you look towards the said cross, and bow to it with theatrical gesture; and then, with other histrionic displays, incurvations, and bowings, place upon the 'credentia,' or 'diminutive preparatory altar,' the vessels which you have borne in the procession. Immediately after the performance of this portion of the strange ceremonial, a curate advances towards the same spot with similar gestures, bowings, and genuflexions. The curate then deposits the piece of furniture or utensil which he has brought into your hand, and you, in repeating the said ceremonial action, proceed to place this vessel beside that already deposited upon the said 'credentia' or 'diminutive preparatory altar.' The curate then takes his place on the south side of the 'high altar,' followed by the others in procession, bowing and gesticulating with much solemn vehemence, and the clergymen forming this remnant of the procession proceed to take their respective places in some symmetrical order, not easily defined, but so regulated as to produce the greatest scenic effect upon the spectators. At the first appearance of this procession, the choristers give a signal by rising; and immediately the whole of the congregation rise also, and remain standing while these gesticulations are being acted. This ceremonial introduces the congregation to the first part of the Morning Service."

In reply to a complaint from Mr. Westerton, the late Bishop of London thus expressed himself with regard to the altar at St. Paul's:—

"With respect to the communion table, which the memorial designates 'the high altar,' I have to observe that you use that term incorrectly. The 'high altar' is the principal altar in a church where there are more than one, which is not the case in any of our churches, except in a few instances, where a church is divided into two parts, and Divine service is performed in each. The communion table in St. Paul's Church cannot be termed an 'altar,' except in a figurative sense of the word. It is not of stone, but wood; not fixed, but moveable. When I consecrated the church, the disputes on this article of church furniture had not risen to such a pitch as they have since attained; and the height of the communion table did not attract my notice."

COLLECTING ICE AT THE SERPENTINE.

IN this age of industry and enterprise, when every speculation likely to yield a profit is "gone into," and when everything, out of which money can possibly be made, becomes an article of commerce, it would be wonderful indeed if ice were altogether neglected. That such is not the case, our readers will perceive by one glance at our illustration, which represents the process of collecting ice from the Serpentine.

When, in the winter season, the rivers, lakes, streams, and canals are frozen, few people consider that an immense traffic is carried on in an article that seems so insignificant or worthless, and it scarcely ever occurs to the mind that the ice is a marketable commodity, affording employment to numbers of the labouring population at a period when every other kind of work is suspended. A certain class of London labourers watch for the frost with keen eyes; and when it does appear, a number of little carts are observed making for the environs of the metropolis to clear the pools and

CONVEYING SPANISH WINES ACROSS THE PYRENEES.

shallow waters. The London ice-carts are rather picturesque objects in their way.

We understand that by those engaged in this ice trade a regular system is pursued. Five or six owners of small carts, drawn by donkeys and ponies, form themselves into a company, and looking about them for ponds, &c., pay a rent to the proprietors of such pieces of water for the right of removing the ice, whenever the water is frozen over. They then watch keenly for a frost, and the first skimming being collected, is generally sold in small quantities to confectioners and fishmongers. When, however, the ice has attained to the thickness of from half-an-inch, to a foot and upwards it is sold in large quantities to merchants, who deposit it in wells, and supply confectioners, fishmongers, hotels, inns, and public-houses.

The construction of the wells in which the dealers deposit ice is rather curious. They are built downwards, and are four bricks thick, secured together by cement. The exclusion of the exterior air is carefully attended to, and the ice is drawn up in buckets.

On board the vessels that bring cargoes of ice from Norway and America, the hatchways and bulk-heads are tightly caulked; and when stowed in wells in this country, the upper surface of the ice is constantly covered with thick woollen clothes, nor is it permitted to be carried away in the carts, unless similarly protected.

The annual consumption of ice in London and the immediate vicinity is something immense; besides which large quantities are sent to Bath, Bristol, Cheltenham, and other towns of importance. Confectioners use the greatest portion; but the demand among the fishmongers is also very considerable, as fish when kept in ice will not freeze.

It is not only in England that the ice trade flourishes. From the United States the export is stated to be immense; and it is asserted that more than sixty thousand tons are annually exported from Boston to southern parts, and to the East and West Indies. The ice-houses near the lakes and ponds—some of them covering half an acre of ground and holding from 10,000 to 20,000 tons each. They are built with double walls, or rather with an inner and outer wall two feet apart, the space between being filled with saw-dust, which acts as a non-conductor and forms a solid wall impervious to air

and heat. The machines used in cutting the ice are beautifully constructed; and the work is done by men and horses in a way so peculiar as to be worth alluding to.

The ice intended to be cut is cleared of snow as soon as it

imported into England; but, though the foreign ice trade has, to some extent, provided a supply of the commodity for London, the home trade in this luxury, if such it can now be called, is by no means neglected.

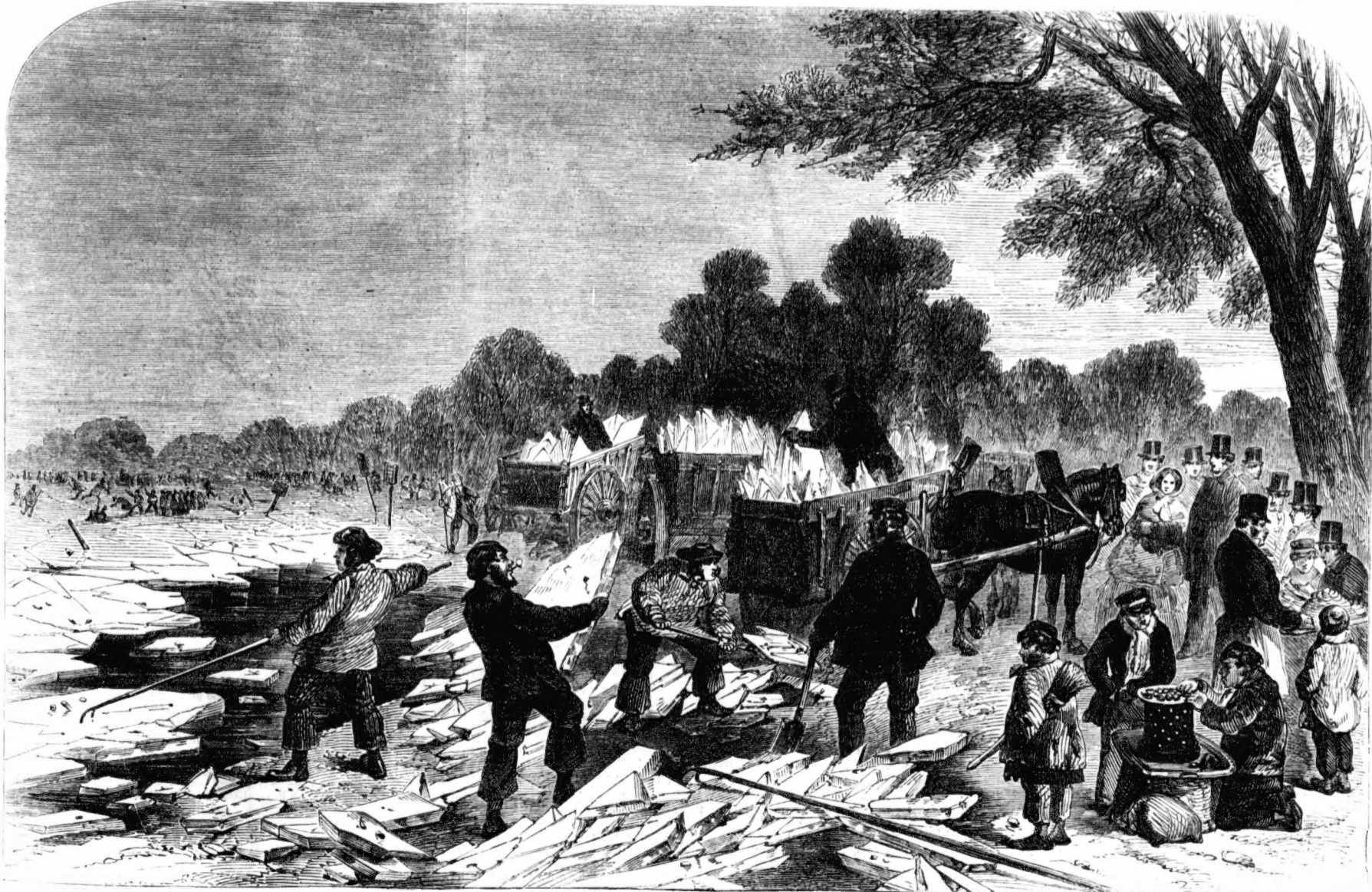
is capable of bearing men's weight, and when ready for cutting, a piece of two acres' extent is operated upon. This, if a foot thick, will, it is stated, produce about 2,000 tons; and the men employed commence by cutting a straight line through the centre each way. A small hand plough is then pushed along the line until the groove is about a quarter of an inch in width, and three inches deep. The workmen then apply what is called the "marker" (an instrument drawn by two horses, which makes two new grooves parallel with the first, twenty-one inches apart, the gauge remaining in the first groove. It is then shifted to the outside groove, and makes two more. The same operations go on in parallel rectangular lines, until the entire field of ice is marked into squares of twenty-one inches each.

Meanwhile the plough, following in these grooves, cuts up the ice to the depth of six inches. The outer blocks are then sawn out, and iron bars, like spades, are used for splitting them. In dropping the blocks into the grooves, the ice splits off, and a very slight blow is sufficient to separate them. Platforms are placed near the opening made in the ice, with an iron slide reaching from them into the water, and one of the men stands on each side with a hook of steel, having a fine sharp point, that drags the ice on to the platform, from which it is precipitated down the slide, and thence dragged to the ice-house, where it is deposited. Forty men and twelve horses will cut and stow away 400 tons in a day. In case of the weather being very favourable for the operation, a hundred men are sometimes employed at once; and in about three weeks the ice-crop is secured. Sometimes, the whole may become useless, as, if a rain or thaw comes on during the process, the ice is rendered unfit for market.

It was in 1822, that what is called the foreign ice trade commenced in England. There being a great scarcity of ice in this country, the late Mr. Leftwich, then a confectioner in Fleet Street, went over to Norway, where he chartered a vessel, purchased a large quantity, and brought it to England, where it sold readily. A large quantity of ice is now of course



THE ALTAR OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, KNIGHTSBRIDGE.



THE LATE FROST: COLLECTING ICE AT THE SERPENTINE, HYDE PARK.

A PUBLIC RAPPING "SEANCE" IN LONDON.

A MR. RANDOLPH, described in his advertisements as "a distinguished American speaker," issued, a few days ago, a prospectus of a course of lectures, at the Marylebone Institution, on Spiritualism. He was heralded by a curious little pamphlet, containing criticisms by a portion of the American press on his previous performances. "Stephen Abro's Paper, Buffalo, N. Y.," kindly informed the world that "Townsend Hall was a perfect jam last night. Everybody seemed bent on listening to the new Chilo, Mr. Randolph." The "Buffalo Age of Progress" intimated that it would be a folly to attempt to describe Mr. R.'s lecture, and did so immediately, describing the "Age of Progress" as "concerned for the physical and intellectual safety of the speaker, for both seemed to be stretched beyond mortal powers of tension, and as ready to burst as the sails of a ship when distended by the breath of a tornado." The "American Banner" hailed him "as a new Chilo," the peculiar properties of which article appear to be highly appreciated in the States. The "Bingham Courier" pronounced him "a Psychometer, and the best reader of the human mind now living, Jackson Davis not excepted;" while the "Percy Herald" declared him to be, "in view of his antecedents, an extraordinary young man;" and the "Cleveland Plain Dealer," a "Concrete Man."

Upon these recommendations we attended the first lecture. It was a discourse upon the immortality of the soul, and the lecturer was certainly loud and voluble, and energetic. But the connection between his harangue and his arguments thereon, in favour of the supernatural causes of table-turning, appeared to us rather slight. An elderly gentleman of venerable appearance, informed the orator in the politest possible manner, that he would probably find the English people but slightly inclined to favour mere fine speaking, as we already had sufficient, not to say a superabundance, of that gift already on hand; but that any new facts in science or philosophy, would, if exhibited, meet with due and earnest attention. With a promise on the part of Mr. Randolph, of a "rapping and tipping seance" on the 14th inst., and a feeble attempt at table-turning by some volunteers, the first lecture came to a conclusion.

The second, like the first, was but moderately attended, but the audience as before exhibited generally a very fair aspect of education and intelligence. Their purpose was evidently that of unprejudiced investigation. When Mr. Randolph, accelerated by a hint from the chairman, cut short his platonic monologue by the announcement that on such a subject he could go on until—(the sentence here broke down), the "mediums" arranged themselves round the table, and the business of the evening began. After a few minutes, a medium, evidently of nervous temperament, began to exhibit convulsive movements in one arm. These, Mr. Randolph assured the audience, were perfectly involuntary. He evidently did not perceive how much this statement bore against his own theory, and in favour of that of Faraday respecting involuntary muscular action. Presently, the table "tipped," *i. e.* elevated the side farthest from our convulsive friend. Some one proposed that as this person was seated on the heaviest side of the table (for its one flap was immediately in front of him), this position should be reversed. It was done, and the "tipping" at once ceased. Mr. Randolph appealed in vain to "the spirits" to continue their operations; they would now perform nothing beyond ordinary table moving. In this pastime, which was only indulged in at intervals, the time passed drearily enough until about ten o'clock, when the chairman announced that a musical spirit was present calling for a song, and that on a medium singing "God save the Queen," the table would beat time. The way in which the anthem was sung, and the way in which the table beat what was not time, must have been a caution to that musical spirit to all eternity. We should mention that a pretty young lady of decidedly misanthropic tendencies occupied the "dipping" side of the table during the performance of the later feats. And here we may remark upon one peculiar fact which struck us. When the table "tipped," the parties on whose side it rose made a great show of only touching it lightly, and of removing on hand, as much as to say, "You perceive we do not lift it!" On the other hand, those on the side where the force would be applied to exert the lever power, invariably pressed their fingers flat when the table rose.

At last, at about half-past ten, the table, under the influence of the merry young lady, tipped again. It would answer to the alphabet by tipping, three tips being affirmative and one negative; and by calling slowly over the letters, the audience gained the fact that the table was controlled by the spirit of Henry Simpson brother of John. Inquiry was made as to where Henry had "passed away," and the answer was "nothere." "Spirit" was asked whether he had relations present, but had not. Another question was demanded from the audience; and a gentleman proposed to ask whether Henry Simpson thought it worth while to come from the spirit world into that room to give information that he had died somewhere else; but as a direct answer either way would have involved some difficulty, the lecturer, instead of asking, attempted to explain. The chairman came to his rescue; and the table made such a violent and noisy demonstration by banging its flap, that the proceedings came to a termination, certainly not premature, but evidently highly unsatisfactory.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND THE CONVICT QUESTION.—A gentleman who held the appointment of Honorary Agent for this Colony, writes to assure us that other Australian colonies have nothing to fear from the erection of Western Australia into a regular convict establishment. He says, "Between Western Australia and the other Colonies there is an impenetrable forest, through which it would be impossible for any convict to escape; whilst, between it and the Eastern Colonies is the whole of the unknown and mysterious interior of Australia, through which the passage, even by educated science with all its appliances, has not yet been made; so that Western Australia is in that respect isolated, and for the purposes of security as safe, as if a gulf or fire intervened."

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—On Monday evening, as the three o'clock train from Lancaster was passing Appleby Bridge, about five o'clock, a number of men were engaged in plate-laying. The men got out of the way of the approaching train, but they unfortunately stepped on the down line, and were overtaken by the Bradford train. One of them, John Hammond, a young man, was almost cut to pieces, and the other plate-layers had a narrow escape from the same fate. On the previous Friday, a train left Newcastle-on-Tyne, at a quarter to five, with about twenty passengers. When it was within a quarter of a mile of Shields, an axle-tree of the first carriage broke, forced the carriage off its springs, and threw it completely across the line. In spite of this, the train continued to run on, some carriages being on and some off the line, till it was brought to a stop by coming in contact with the parapet of the bridge which crosses the Shields turnpike-road. Fortunately, the coupling chains of the engine now gave way, or the consequences might have been very serious. As it was, several of the passengers received severe injury.—On Wednesday week, D. Bateson, of Lancaster, was killed by an engine as he was crossing the rails at Little Station; a woman narrowly escaped the same fate.

A RACE ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.—The United States mail steamship Atlantic left New York for Liverpool on the 1st inst. Among the passengers was a man named Winter (with his wife), a clerk of a mercantile firm in that city, having in his possession 2,000 dols. belonging to his employers, and which he had obtained by breaking open the safe. On his absence being ascertained, together with the amount of money with which he had absconded, the principal of the firm obtained a warrant for his apprehension, and took a passage by the British and North American mail steamship Persia, which sailed three days afterwards. The chances were in favour of the criminal clerk; for though the Persia is the fastest steamer afloat, it could scarcely be expected that she would overtake a full-powered steamer, which sailed three days before her. No sign of the pursued steamer was seen until off the port, when the Persia came up with and passed her, arriving in the river two hours before her. Very shortly after, the pursuer accompanied by a police-officer, boarded the Atlantic, and confronted the astounded "inter." Nearly the whole of the missing money was found upon him. He was brought ashore, and now awaits the decision of the United States' Consul at Liverpool.

INFANTICIDE.—The body of a fine newly-born male infant was some time since found in a box, which had been forwarded from Brighton to London—"to be left at the Bricklayers' Arms station till called for." On Saturday, a young woman named Chandler, living at Brighton as a domestic servant, was arrested for the murder of this child. Another woman, Emma Francis, was taken into custody. She says that Chandler sent for her, and showed her the body of the child; and that she (Francis) then packed it in the box, and wrote the direction. Further inquiry is being made into the matter.—The body of a newly-born female child was found, wrapped in a newspaper, in a court near Blackfriars Road. A bruise, as if caused by the pressure of the thumb, was found under the left jaw. At the inquest held on the body, however, a surgeon declared that he could not positively say whether the child had been born alive or not; and the jury therefore returned an open verdict of "Found dead."

NOTES ON SOME NEW BOOKS.

The Philosophy of Common Life. By J. SCOFFERN, M.B. London: Ward and Lock.

How to make Home Happy. By WM. JONES, F.S.A. London: Bogue.

If people lack health, wealth, and wisdom, it is not for the want of advisers. From the ancient proponent of the adage of "Early to bed and early to rise," down to the Simons and Hassalls of these latter days, there have been teachers in abundance to preach the great laws of Hygiene, and show that unless people clean their houses, drain their lands, and subject their bodies to proper discipline, health and happiness will be but delusive and evanescent phantoms, and disease and misery the only realities.

Without making use of abstruse and scientific terms, Mr. Scoffern has produced a very valuable and well-arranged book on the physical laws that affect common life, setting forth just as much about the human frame, food and its adulteration, climate, medicine, &c., as it is good for most people to know. One great merit it possesses is, that it might be perused by the most nervous man, without disturbing his peace of mind. The chapters devoted to food are particularly interesting and full of sound information.

The title of the second work is rather misleading. The reader would probably expect a dissertation on the use and abuse of shirt buttons, and a few animal-versions upon cold mutton and washing days; these "important" subjects have been overlooked, however, in "How to make Home Happy." The book is a sort of omnium gatherum of all kinds of household hints and cautions, interspersed with scraps of poetry, and moral precepts from the writings of Mrs. Ellis, Bernard Barton, Dr. Franklin, and other exemplary characters. Moreover, each page is bordered with proverbs and wise saws in the style of Maunders' "Treasures." Mr. Jones is evidently an admirer of carpet slippers and home comforts, and like a model husband, dedicates the book to his wife. As a piece of drawing-room table furniture, this little volume is quite equal in appearance, and infinitely superior in material, to the "Peagees," "Blue Books," and "Who's Whos," that take such a prominent position in many British households.

The Haunted House. By FREDERICK GERSTAECKER. London: Routledge and Co.

THIS is a romantic story after the approved *semi-diableric* style of Washington Irving and Nathaniel Hawthorne. It would, however, scarcely be fair to compare the work in any other respect with the productions of either of those famous writers. The tale opens well, and the mysterious portion of it is well sustained until the concluding chapters, when a weak and unsatisfactory dénouement spoils, without completing, a capital romance. There is in it one frightful episode of a student who acquires the art of temporarily separating his soul from his body, and who at length, on return from one of his spiritual flights, discovers that during his supposed death his earthly tenement has been carried off and dissected by a surgeon, from whom he obtains, as compensation, the corpse of an elderly scoundrel recently hanged, and with which the poor soul is forced to content itself for the remainder of its earthly sojourn. This is well told, and would have made an excellent magazine story; but its place in the book subjects it to the ferber termination to which we have already alluded. "The Haunted House" may be a good companion enough for a leisure half hour, or for a railway ride; but as its pervading object appears to be to awaken the sentiment of terror, the heads of families should not allow it to fall into the hands of children.

The Mother's Mistake. By MRS. ELLIS. London: Houlston and Stoneman.

THE merits of the authoress of the "Women of England," are too well known to render necessary any eulogium upon her literary talents, or upon the manner in which she always renders her works subservient to the purpose of moral and social utility. The present story, "The Mother's Mistake," shows the miseries caused in families by efforts on the part of mistaken parents to divert the natural genius and inclination of their offspring in order to gratify parental prejudice or ambition. The natural purity of Mrs. Ellis's disposition appears throughout the entire work. A brief and well-written biographical sketch of the authoress is prefixed, and from this we learn with much pleasure that the private life of Mrs. Ellis is spent in the earnest and active practical appliance of the principles which she labours with so much zeal and talent to impress by the medium of her literary performances.

Proverbs Illustrated. By MRS. ALFRED GATTY. London: Bell and Daldy.

THE professed object of this little volume is to render clear and intelligible to the youthful mind, certain proverbs which to them might at first appear somewhat difficult of comprehension, and further to assist the appreciation of the wisdom of proverbs in general by illustrating the manner of their application. The authoress, Mrs. Alfred Gatty, is the wife of a clergyman, vicar of a parish in a manufacturing town in Yorkshire, and is already favourably known to the public as the writer of several religious and instructive works suited to the tastes and capacities of the young. The tone of this little work is at once pleasing and instructive. It contains three tales, each illustrative of its respective proverb, and all remarkable for interesting incident combined with lessons of pure morality.

LAW AND CRIME.

ONE of the most curious attributes of crime is the tendency which criminal offences exhibit of presenting themselves in groups. A murder or suicide of an extraordinarily horrible kind, seldom occurs singly. Wife beating had its career, like a fashion, as had also grotting and suburban burglary. During the last week there appears to have been a run upon demoralising social offences, and we are glad to find they have been met with proper spirit by the authorities. A scandalous and licentious periodical, entitled "Paul Pry," a faint reflection of a more villainous, only because more powerful, precursor, has for some weeks defaced the windows of a few unscrupulous stationers, and maintained its loathly existence to the delight of a few of the lower order of gents and of certain pot-house libellers, who used it as the medium of revenge against unimpressible barmaids and judicious scullions. The publisher has been required to find bail to answer an indictment at the instance of the Society for the Suppression of Vice. A man named Cowan, who keeps a medical establishment in Rochester Row, Westminster, was charged before Mr. Paynter with exhibiting an offensive and indecent placard in front of his house, and being convicted, after an attempted defence, characterised by the grossest ignorance, was fined forty shillings, the magistrate intimating his intention of committing the defendant for trial, if the offence were repeated. Strange to say, there does not appear to be any legal obstacle to this man's continuance of his career as a medical adviser, in the centre of a poor and uneducated neighbourhood. A woman, described as of lady-like address, was brought before Mr. D'Eyncourt, on a charge of receiving money for pretending to tell fortunes. A female police agent, who appears to have represented a servant, deposed to having paid the prisoner a shilling for certain prognostications. These were, that the consultant was doomed to be cheated of her wages by her mistress, and that although she would stray from the path of virtue within a short period, that the evil would shortly be repaired by a marriage. The arch-tempter could scarcely have devised a more insidious prediction. It tended at once, supposing the visitor to have been a simple mental, to render her careless of her duties, inimical to her employer, and reckless as to her own reputation. The lady was sentenced, notwithstanding the position in which she had evidently moved, to one month's imprisonment, and was taken off "convulsed with grief" by the jailor. The reporter of this case appears somewhat sympathetic. And yet it was proved in evidence that this woman was visited by dozens of females daily! How many of these, if all received similar replies to that granted to the prosecutrix, would be only too happy to exchange their consequent misery for one month's imprisonment?

"Follow me to the field, and I will be your leader," were the words which, when used by Richard Plantagenet to his rebellious people, clamorous for their rights, and infuriated by the murder of their chief, had the effect of putting an end to the insurrection commenced by Wat Tyler. The leader once accepted, the cause was at an end. The mass meetings of the unemployed workmen, the moral force they have—not unsuccessfully—

exerted, and the sympathy they have excited, appear in danger of a similar termination. Certain political agitators have volunteered their services to conduct the affairs of the unfortunate workmen. Should this aid be accepted, it is easy to foresee the result. That result will soon be found in the forfeiture of the kindly consideration which the majority of the middle and even of the upper classes already feel for the labourers, and which the treatment they have experienced in consequence from the press and at most of the police-officers might lead them to respect as not altogether weak or futile. The social question which these men have propounded as to the right of the unemployed labourer to parochial relief without a cruel and delusive labour test is in a fair way of being answered according to their desires. If the law stand in the way of this consummation, public opinion is with the men, and as Parliament is now sitting, there can be but little difficulty in effecting the amendment of the law. But let this question only become mixed up with others as to which great and violent differences of opinion exist, and its prestige will be immediately sacrificed.

Humphrey Brown, Esq., M.P., perhaps better known for his connection with the Royal British Bank than for his parliamentary achievements, has announced his intention of vindicating his transactions with that unfortunate concern, at a dinner to be given to him by some friends at Testbury, on Monday next. It appears that a magnificent testimonial silver (representing three angels carrying a large basket filled with vegetable productions) has been prepared as an appropriate testimonial something or other to the honourable gentleman. Might one venture to suggest that a large dinner party of admiring friends and sympathising ladies, with wine and dessert upon the table in front and a testimonial behind, is not exactly the combination of circumstances in point of time, place, or audience, which every honourable gentleman would have selected to reply to grave and circumstantial charges affecting his reputation? To such a company the most complete, or incomplete of defences, must be a work of supererogation. By the way, it will be as well for the donors to vest the property of the angels, basket, and all the rest of it, in trustees, or for Mr. Humphrey Brown to put it carefully out of the way for a short time. If the fancy strike the shrewd attorney of some defrauded depositor, and a writ be forwarded to the Sheriff of Gloucester, there is no knowing who may ultimately receive the testimonial.

The case of Davison v. Duncan, in which, it may be remembered, the Judges held that a *bona fide* report of a public meeting was not privileged by the present law as to libel, has been repeatedly brought, during the week, before both Houses of Parliament. It is satisfactory to find that Lord Campbell, who presided in the court by which the judgment was delivered, is among the most active advocates of an amendment of the law upon this and similar cases. This should surely be an answer to the somewhat severe strictures of some of our contemporaries upon the judicial authorities, whose duty was only to declare the law as it stood. And it may be as well to again remind our readers that the case of Davison v. Duncan has yet to be tried by a jury, and that by their verdict, not by the judicial decision, will the plaintiff's victory have to be measured. It is, however, not unreasonable to infer, from the opinions expressed, that the law will be altered during the present session.

An Irish Roman Catholic priest made in sober seriousness a capital pun in the Prerogative Court of Dublin, on being tendered, as a witness, the Protestant version of the Bible. He refused to kiss the cover because he did not consider such an oath "binding!" The joke was unintentional, and no one appears to have remarked it. It was, however, decided that as Catholics in general did not object to be sworn on the authorised translation, that the reverend gentleman could not be allowed to stand upon a scruple not shared by his church.

"The Times" having on Saturday last devoted a leading article to the annihilation of Lord Cranworth, followed up its attack a day or two afterwards by an extract, written in a somewhat similar strain, from a contemporary. To this "The Times" affixed as a heading, "RETIREMENT OF LORD CRANWORTH." Unless our memory deceives us, this is not the first time a judicial retirement has been attempted to be effectuated by such a course. It is to be hoped, however, irrespective of any opinion as to Lord Cranworth's merits or otherwise, that the hint will not be acted upon, and that its purpose will not be assisted without due consideration. It should be remembered that every retiring Lord Chancellor receives a handsome pension, and that a new one is appointed upon each change of government. Should Lord Cranworth therefore retire, and after the appointment of his successor the present ministry be forced to resign (a by no means unlikely contingency), the latter will receive his pension for almost nominal services, and the nation be tricked by the same contrivance for the second time within the memory of young politicians. Old ones will view the conduct of the "Times" as a signal of distress on the part of the Palmerston administration.

THE MURDERS IN WALWORTH.

BACON and his wife were brought up for examination on Wednesday. They had scarcely made their appearance, when the following telegraphic message reached the court from Stamford:—"Arsenic is found by Dr. Taylor." As no further evidence was offered, Mr. Elliott, after reading the message publicly, said, that no more remained to be done than to send the prisoners for trial. The Magistrate also said that he had received a letter signed A., disclosing circumstances of a peculiar nature incidentally connected with this case; and, though anonymous, the writer expressed his willingness to come forward if desired. This the Magistrate hoped he would do, as his statements were important.

The prisoners were then removed. On reaching his cell, the fortitude with which Bacon had heard the announcement of the discovery of poison in the body of his mother utterly gave way. Recovering his self-possession, he begged to see his wife. The gaoler told him that could not be without the magistrate's sanction.

Bacon then said he should first write a note for her, and then ask the magistrate for an interview; and, if that was refused, he should ask for permission to send her the note he should write. A pen, ink, and paper being then given to him, he wrote a note, of which the following is a copy:—

"My dear Martha,—I write these few lines to you hoping that you will tell the truth, as I wish to the Lord that you will speak the truth, as it will be best for us, as our situation requires, now we are placed that nothing else will be more advantageous to both, hoping you, as my wife, will not but give me an answer, as I should like to see you, and likewise to speak to you, hoping you are well, so now I move this time, with my love to you.—I remain your affectionate husband,

J. F. BACON."

Bacon here, at his request, was taken before the magistrate, and addressing Mr. Elliott, asked to be allowed to see his wife. The magistrate refused his request, and furthermore forbade any communication with her.

THE INQUEST ON MRS. BACON.

The inquest on the body of Bacon's mother was opened on Wednesday, at Great Casterton, Rutland.

Dr. Alfred Taylor then read the result of his analysis, as follows:—"That the body of Ann Bacon contained arsenic, which must have been taken by her or administered to her while living. That arsenic was found in the largest proportion—first, in the intestines; second, in the liver and gall, and bladder; thirdly, in the stomach. The kidneys and spleen contained a small quantity. The heart and blood liquid of the chest contained none. That the total quantity extracted from the different parts was about three quarters of a grain. That the parts containing the arsenic were well preserved, but presented none of those appearances which are usually produced by this poison. That whether the deceased died from the effects of arsenic or natural causes can only be determined by the symptoms from which she suffered in the illness preceding her death."

Mr. Edward Barber, surgeon, of Stamford, who attended Mrs. Bacon in her last illness, said that he then believed she was attacked by English cholera. She had pains in the abdomen, was sick, and purged. The symptoms were such as would be produced by arsenic.

Mrs. Bacon, of Stamford, said she was present when Mrs. Ann Bacon died. She saw the deceased on the Sunday, when she told her that she was very well in the morning, and had been taken ill at dinner, after supping some broth. Deceased was sick twice in witness's presence. Witness saw deceased again on Monday, when Bacon said to his wife, "Give her something out of the bottle," pointing to one on the table, which was not a medicine bottle. Witness asked what it was, and Bacon replied, "Oh, something she had yesterday that did her good." After she died, he took the bottle away. He said, "As this is mine, I will take it." The stuff in the bottle was a light-coloured fluid. About an hour and a half before Mrs. Bacon's death, Thomas Bacon remarked to witness, "I suppose you know that by my father's will this house and all that is in it belongs to me and my sister." Witness replied that it would be quite time enough to talk about the property when his mother was dead. He was to have succeeded to some house property worth £90 a year, subject to certain legacies; and was disappointed when his mother's will was discovered. About six weeks before her death Mrs. Bacon was taken very ill, and was sick several times. She told witness that she had been to Thomas's, and had a cup of tea, and had not taken anything except an egg afterwards.

Some other evidence having been adduced, a verdict of "Wilful Murder" was returned against Thomas Bacon.

SPIRITS.—We have to report a dull market for rum, at 1d. per gallon less money. Proof Leewards, 2s. 6d.; East India, 2s. 5½d. per gallon. Brandy is less active, yet holders demand higher rates.

A APPARATUS, £3, £3.50, and £2 17s., with Double Achromatic Lenses, of the best description, Chemicals, and the Art taught included. If inconvenient to attend personally, every information by letter till perfect will be freely given.—At GILBERT FLEMING'S, 498, New Oxford Street, Manufacturer to H. M.'s Hon. Board of Ordnance; Author of "First Steps in Photography," Price 6d., by Post, 8s. 6d. Stamps. Price List sent Post-free. Agent for

